THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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80% RURAL INDIANS SAW WORK COME TO HALT AMID LOCKDOWN

Yet, only 23% says the lockdown was bad, and 74% feels the Centre has tackled the pandemic well, says a new survey

68% FACED MONEY CRUNCH, 23% BORROWED

Over 68% faced "high" to "very high" financial difficulties during the lockdown, the survey by rural portal Gaon Connection found. Twenty-three per cent had to borrow money while 8% had to sell valuable assets. The survey, done in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Developing Societies, was based on interviews with over 25,000 people in 20 states

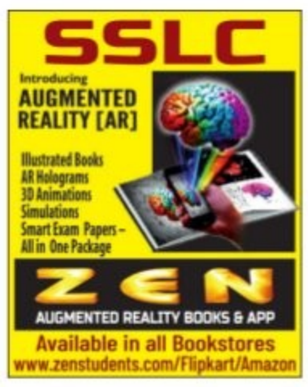
ONLY 20% GOT WORK UNDER MGNREGA

- About 38% households could not get necessary medicines
- Only 20% respondents said they got work under MGNREGA
- "Interestingly, respondents in BJP-ruled states were less impressed with the Modi govt's handling of the pandemic than those in many other states," the survey said

75%

POOR FAMILIES SUFFERED A DIP IN INCOME DURING LOCKDOWN

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



Pilot alters flight plan, patches up

Rebel leader's meeting with Rahul, Priyanka sealed deal; No clarity on his new role though

RICHA SHARMA & RAJESH ASNANI @ New Delhi / Jaipur

ENDING a month-long political impasse in Rajasthan, rebel Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Monday met party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, while the party agreed to constitute a three-member committee to look into the young leader's concerns against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

The move comes four days before the Rajasthan Assembly session, where Gehlot was expected to take the floor test to prove his majority.

However, there is no clarity if Pilot will be reinstated as deputy chief minister and Rajasthan Congress chief, but party sources said his demand for being made the CM in place of Gehlot is unlikely to be met.

Sources said he may be accommodated in the central party for the time being, before the matter is resolved.

"Sachin Pilot met with former Congress President Rahul Gandhi and expressed his grievances in detail. They have had a frank, open and conclusive discussion. Pilot has committed to working in the interest of the Congress party and the Congress government in Rajasthan," said a statement by Congress organisational secretary K C Venugopal.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was briefed about the developments. She subsequently spoke to Gehlot and informed him about the party's decision.

The committee consisting of Priyanka, Venugopal and senior party leader Ahmed Patel met Pilot and the MLAs supporting him to listen to their grievances.

During the talks with the Gandhi siblings, Pilot was assured that all issues would be looked at and no action be taken against rebel MLAs. This was the first meeting between them since the crisis started. In Jaipur, Bhanwarlal Sharma, an MLA from the Pilot camp, said the Congress government will complete its five-year term. P9

Karnataka pegs rain damage at ₹4,000 crore

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government, during a video-conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, sought an advance of ₹395 crore from its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and an additional assistance package for the damage caused by rains and floods in different parts of the state.

"In all, 885 villages in 56 taluks have been severely affected. Over 3,000 houses, 80,000 hectares of crops, 3,500 km of roads, 104 minor irrigation lakes and tank bunds, and 394 government buildings have been damaged. Our initial estimate of the damage is around ₹4,000 crore," said Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. But, actual losses can be tabulated only after rains subside, he added. The state has sought a special package to overcome losses and damage caused due to floods since 2018 till the Covid crisis.

Last year, when severe floods ravaged parts of Karnataka, the state had estimated the damage at ₹35,000 crore and sought relief from the Centre. After months of delay, the Union government released only ₹1,869 crore. This time around, the state government has decided to wait for the rains to stop completely to assess the damage, and then send a memorandum requesting assistance. P3,10

Former prez Pranab on ventilator

ENS @New Delhi

Former president Pranab Mukherjee, who tested positive for Covid-19, is on ventilator support at the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital here on Monday, sources said. According to another unconfirmed report, the 84-year-old successfully underwent a surgery for a clot in the brain.

"On a visit to the hospital for a separate procedure, I have tested positive for COVID19 today," he tweet earlier. "I request the people who came in contact with me in the last week, to please self isolate and get tested for COVID-19," Mukherjee said.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa greets doctors and other staff as he leaves Manipal Hospital, after being discharged, in Bengaluru on Monday | EXPRESS

CM RECOVERS FROM COVID-19, DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AFTER nine days at the hospital, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa was discharged after he tested negative for Covid-19 on Monday. The results arrived in the afternoon, and within the next few hours, he left Manipal Hospital on Old Airport Road. He will remain under home quarantine for a couple of days before resuming official work in full swing, as per doctors' recommendations. CONTINUED ON: P7

It's a test of will and grit for these SSLC stars

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE results of the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exam 2020 announced on Monday showed a marginal dip in the state's performance, with a pass percentage of 71.80% compared to 73.70% last year. But this year, the results have thrown up star students and impressive efforts in the face of steep challenges.

Mahesh GM, son of a farmer of Gunnagere village in Kunigal taluk, and a student of Jnana Bharathi High School in Kunigal town, secured the second rank with 11 others, scoring 624/625 (99.83%).

Nor did poverty deter Akash R of Siddaganga High School, son of a security guard, from topping Davanagere district, securing 623/625 (99.68%).

Mahesh B, from Karnataka Public School in Jeevan Bima Nagar, Bengaluru, who worked as a mason at a construction site while away from school, took a break just five days before the exams to prepare, and scored 616/625 (98.56%).

The century-old Government School for the Blind in Mysuru secured 100 per cent pass percentage for the tenth consecutive year. Visually-challenged Prajwal, son of a driver, secured 84.6%.

Rajarajeshwari, an orphan from JSS High School at Srirampura in Mysuru, who in her childhood begged for a living, passed with a first-class. P2

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Optional: Tally Ace & Tally Pro Cert. Coaching
Medium of Instruction: English. Languages: Kannada, Sanskrit, Hindi, Telugu.
Toppers in 2nd PU COMMERCE March 2020 Exam
ANVITHA SHETTY 98.67 % (592/600) STATE 6TH PALACE
KALYAN R AITHAL 98.17 % (589/600) STATE 9TH PALACE
VAISHNAVI M R 98.00 % (588/600) STATE 10TH PALACE
MEGHA BHASKAR BHAT 97.50 % (585/600)
Toppers in 2nd PU SCIENCE March 2020 Exam
PRUTHVI K 95. 50 % (573/600) PCMB
PURNESH N 94.00 % (564/600) PCMCs
YASHWANTH C 93.83 % (563/600) PCMCs
GEETHANJALI P 93.50 % (561/600) PCMCs
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SRINIDHI K S CS - 97.63 %
MANOJ S ME - 94 %
ROHAN R JOSHI AT - 90.56 %
DCET Top Rank Holders
NIKHIL B BHAT ME - RANK 17
MOHAN A RAO. EC - RANK 24
DARSHAN S EC - RANK 58
BHARATHI H EC - RANK 66

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Tuesday 11/08/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Varsha
Masa: Shravana • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ashtami (Wholeday) • Nakshatra: Bharani 10.47 pm
Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 03:00 am to 04:30 am
Gulikakala: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm • Yamaganda: 09:00 am to 10:30 am

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 21°C | MAX 26°C
FORECAST
Rain showers. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.07 am
Sunset 6.42 pm
Moonrise 11.58 pm
Moonset 11.23 am

02 BENGALURU TUESDAY 11.08.2020 newindianexpress.com

MOMENT OF TRIUMPH

HOLDING A TROWEL, HE SCORED 616/625

Mahesh, who hails from Yadgir, lives in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WHEN most of the candidates who were taking SSLC exams were holding pen and paper preparing for the examinations, Mahesh B (17) was holding a trowel and working in a construction building. He took a break from work only five days before the exams and on Monday when results came he was one of the toppers. Out of 625, he scored 616 marks .

Mahesh, who hails from Yadgir, stays with his mother and two brothers at Malleshpalya. He studied at a government school (Karnataka public school in Jeevanbimanagar) which is some 5 km from his house. He would take a BMTC bus to school. Forget private tuitions , his school did not have regular teachers for Kannada and Hindi. "Our social studies teacher who was about to retire completed the Kannada portions for us. We somehow managed Hindi," he said.

His father passed away when Mahesh was five years old. His mother Mallamma who has never gone to school works as a domestic help. His elder brother does odd jobs – from construction work to driving a tempo. Just before the lockdown, the brother went in the tempo to Yadgir. "That's when lockdown was announced and my brother got stuck," Mahesh said.

"Those were difficult days for us. Mother neither had a job nor money. Fortunately we got a ration kit from the BBMP," he said. Mahesh's younger brother is now in class eighth.

What was his success mantra? "I would concentrate on the difficult lessons. I relied on just the textbooks and notes. I was expecting more than 90 per cent. But I did not expect such a high score."

He wants to become a teacher and has requested Education minister S Suresh Kumar to appoint teachers in all government schools. "What we faced, others should not face," he said.

Percentage ranking for dists to go

Three-level grading system in place from this year, majority of schools get an A

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

THE state has decided to do away with announcing the pass percentage of the different districts, and has instead come up with a three-level grading system. This new format is here to stay, said K G Jagadeesh, Commissioner of Public Instruction, adding that an order in this regard was passed recently.

Earlier, 34 districts were ranked based on the pass percentage of students, with Udupi and Dakshina Kannada usually occupying the top spots. SSLC director Sumangala V said the earlier system was creating "unhealthy competition", and that the process failed in actually assessing learning.

The new system will now place districts, taluks, blocks and schools in one of three grades - A, B, or C. Grades are decided based on the total number of students in a district who cleared the exams (40%), combined marks secured by all candidates from a district (40%), and the number of students from a district who secured first-class and distinction (20%).

Those who have an aggregate above 75 per cent get an A grade, those between 60 and 75 per cent get a B, and those below 60 per cent get C.

Majority of schools under A grade

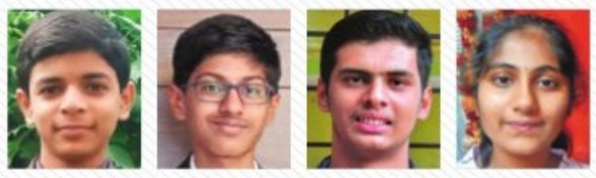
Under this new system, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education Suresh Kumar announced that a total of eight districts secured A grade, while 20 districts got B and four districts C grades. As many as 60 educational blocks fall in the A category, 107 in B, and 37 in the C category.

A total of 5,859 schools in the state belong to the A grade, 4,310 are B grade, and 4,528 are C grade.

Jagadeesh added that the calculation is easy since marks are uploaded online.

Mahesh G M of Kunigal in Tumakuru, with his parents, after he scored 624 out of 625, falling short of just one mark | EXPRESS

TEN ON TEN



Dheeraj Reddy | Nikhilesh Marali | Chirayu K S | Thanmayi I P

6 students score cent per cent

Six students scored 100% marks in the SSLC exams. They are: Sannidhi Mahabaleshwar Hegde, Govt Marikamba PU College, Sirsi; Chirayu K S, Schoenstatt ST Mary's High School, Bengaluru; Nikhilesh N Marali, Poorna Prajna Education Centre HS, Bengaluru; Dheeraj Reddy M P, Sri Sathyasai Saraswathi English Medium Boys' High School, Mandya; Anusha A L, Kumaraswamy English Medium High School, Sullia, and Thanmayi I P, St Joseph's Convent Girls High School, Chikkamagaluru. Another 11 students missed the cent per cent mark by one mark: Aniruddh Suresh Guttikar, Uttara Kannada; Amogh G K, Pranav Vijay Nadgir, Veena M D, Niharika Santosh Kulkarni and Spoorthi A S from Bengaluru; Mahesha G M, Tumakuru; Surabhi S Shetty, Udupi; Sumukha Subrahmanya Shetty and Nidhi Rao from Dakshina Kannada and T S Abhirama from Shivamogga.

HOW THE SCORES SWING

- 77.74 per cent of 3.85 lakh girls passed
- 66.41 per cent of 4.25 lakh boys cleared the exam
- Govt schools registered 72.79 pass percentage, aided schools 70.6%, unaided schools 82.31%
- Scheduled Caste students registered 68.58 pass percentage, Scheduled Tribe students 69.20%. Average pass percentage of all categories was 71.20%
- General category registered 74.99 pass per cent

Suresh Kumar holds up the SSLC results chart

TESTING TIME

Uncertainty caused dip in results

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

THE overall pass percentage of the SSLC exam fell by about two points -- 71.80 per cent compared with 73.70 per cent last year. In all, 8,11,050 students wrote the exam from June 25 to July 4, even as Covid cases rose in the State.

The government held the examination with safety protocols in place, and disallowed Covid-positive candidates from writing it. In all, 331 additional block exam centres were created to facilitate 18-20 persons to be seated in a room. In 2019, 8,25,468 students attempted the exam.

"No candidate was denied a chance to write the exam due to lack of transport," said Minister for Primary and Secondary Education S Suresh Kumar, putting down the drop in pass percentage to the uncertain environment prevailing around the examinations. "Students were unsure whether or not the exam would be held, even close to the exam date," he said.

Students can view results on www.kseeb.kar.nic.in and www.karresults.nic.in . Results are also sent on mobile phones via SMS. Consolidated marks sheet and provisional marks card will be provided on Tuesday at 11 am through the school login of KSEEB.

Pulse check: Cong to launch Jana Dhwani

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Congress is launching a massive campaign, Jana Dhwani (people's voice), to feel the pulse of the people and to get their opinion on the alleged failure of the government on Covid, floods and ordinances on labour, agricultural land and APMC.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar said that party workers at grassroots will galvanise the public opinion against the government and organise Jana Dhwani programmes at district and taluk levels. "It will be an elaborate exercise and the opinions collected will be presented to taluk and district authorities through memoranda," he said.

He termed the labour, land and APMC ordinances as anti-labour and anti-farmer.

"People have been let down as the government has not been able to control Covid. The government's exaggerated Covid purchase bills will be highlighted and public opinion sought," he said.

Congress leaders from districts and taluks, at internal party meetings, had repeatedly pointed to the government's failure in controlling floods and extending succour to the affected people after last year's floods. The new campaign will give expression to the pain of the people, he said.

PUC-II supplementary exams from Sept 7 to 18

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE department of pre-university education will hold supplementary exams for PUC-II students from September 7-18.

Urdu and Sanskrit exams will be held on September 7 in the morning while the National Skills Qualifications Framework's information technology, retail, automobile, healthcare, beauty and wellness, and home science will be held in the afternoon.

History, statistics and biology exams will be held on September 8 in the morning. Hindi will be held on September 9 in the morning and Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Arabic and French will be in the afternoon. English will be conducted on September 10. Optional Kannada, electronics and computer science will be held on September 11 in the morning, and Karnataka music, Hindustani music and geology will be in the afternoon. Economics and physics will be held on September 12. On September 14, logic, business studies and chemistry will be held in the morning. Kannada will be held on September 15 in the morning. The department has scheduled political science and basic maths on September 16 in the morning, and sociology, accountancy and mathematics on September 17 in the morning. On September 18, Geography will be held in the morning and psychology in the afternoon.

EXPRESS READ

Rlys asks pvt parties to book parcels for trains

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Railways Division has asked private parties to play the role of aggregators for trains that will only carry parcels. Senior divisional commercial manager, Bengaluru Division, A N Krishna Reddy said they have called for Expression of Interest. "We plan to bring in aggregators who will book parcels for the entire train."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

11th August : There's been more news recently about possible asteroid crashes. Most cultures have folk-memories of a cosmic catastrophe which hit the Earth at the dawn of history. It's possible that one comet-collision around 10,000 BC might actually have contributed to the end of the last ice-age and the emergence of human civilisation as we know it.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
It certainly should be a secretive day. In fact, it will do you good to spend a little time in quiet meditation. If this is impossible, you will probably find your mind wandering off into endless day-dreams. But, then, perhaps your imagination holds the answers to age-old questions?

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Delicate planetary alignments provide a veil which may obscure the stormy emotions beneath. An additional social gathering or romantic encounter will certainly take your mind off more pressing problems. Any temporary diversion or distraction will cheer you up.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You seem to have a better idea of what went wrong, and how to put it right. Your will to succeed will be strong, but what you need out of a work situation varies. Today, it looks as if your real priority will be a sense of community, the feeling that everyone is working towards a common goal.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Your lunar alignments really are splendid today, a fact which should more than compensate for recent disturbances or upsets. You are still in danger, though, of letting your feelings run away with you. If you're too sensitive then you might imagine that someone's trying to get at you, even though they're not!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Something still seems to be very secret, so much so that even you might be in the dark. It may be too late to stop one particular course of action, but firm agreements may be deferred for another five days.. You have to wait until you're absolutely certain.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The entire situation is in a state of flux, but you may find that when people change their minds it doesn't affect what happens. Just carry on in your own discreet way and nobody should bother you. And, if someone pours cold water on your ideas, it doesn't mean that you're wrong.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Mercury is soon to shift its position again, meaning that your golden time for interviews, conferences and meetings is coming to an end. The deeper indications reveal that by the end of the week you will have to impress people with the breadth of your knowledge rather than the depth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
People at work are bound to find you more congenial if you make a dramatic switch from criticising their weaknesses to praising their strengths. The funny thing is that one is as true as the other, it's just that, with the latter, you will get what you want ! Diplomacy always works best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Home and family affairs should take priority now and over the coming two days. Fortunately, there are no indications of crisis or trauma, just pleasant signs that the more you get done now the happier you'll be. If you put off the inevitable then you'll only delay awkward questions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Partners are not always as reliable as you'd like. There does seem to be a very real indication that someone is about to change their minds or drop out of an arrangement. If you sense that something is wrong, you would do well to take the initiative and call a halt right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Spare a little time for financial affairs, nothing important, mind you, just the inevitable paper-work and purchases. That might sound tedious, but don't worry because, on a personal note, your chart is still looking nicely volcanic! Expect fireworks soon – in a good way!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Remember, Pisces, ultimately you're in control. It is up to you to make the appropriate choices and influence the course of events. The only way out of a current impasse may be to quietly disappear and fade out of the scene. However, if you do want out, there is no time to flap around.

THE PHANTOM

IT WAS YOUR TIME, BON...
YOU ESCAPED IT...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT WEAKLING WHO TRIED TO GUN ME DOWN FROM BEHIND?
THAT WAS MY DESTINY!!
DEATH AT THE HANDS OF A CRAVEN NOBODY?
Falk 6/9

HI AND LOIS

WHEN I GET MY DRIVER'S LICENSE, I CAN DO ALL YOUR ERRANDS FOR YOU.
GREAT! LET'S GO ON A PRACTICE RUN.
ONLY SIX MORE STOPS.
YOU DO THIS EVERY DAY?

BEETLE BAILEY

FILE THIS COPY OF MY EMAIL TO GENERAL MORGAN
DID YOU PROOFREAD BEFORE YOU SENT IT?
NAH, I USED SPELL-CHECK
BECAUSE IT SAYS "DEAR GENERAL MORON"

BLONDIE

WHAT'S FOR DINNER, SWEETHEART?
IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY, SO WE'RE GOING OUT FOR DINNER
WHAT ARE OUR RESTAURANT CHOICES?
THINK OF THE ONE YOU'D LIKE TO GO TO
AND IF IT'S THE SAME ONE I'VE BEEN THINKING OF ALL DAY, THAT'S THE ONE!

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

	4			6			3	
		9	1	3			7	4
				4	8		1	2
1							6	5
4	3	8				2	9	7
5	9							1
8	1		6	2				
6	5			7	3	1		
	7			5			2	

EASY

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

4	8	7	3	9	1	2	6	5
3	9	2	5	6	4	7	1	8
1	6	5	2	8	7	9	4	3
6	5	1	8	3	9	4	2	7
8	4	9	7	1	2	5	3	6
2	7	3	6	4	5	1	8	9
9	2	8	1	5	3	6	7	4
7	3	4	9	2	6	8	5	1
5	1	6	4	7	8	3	9	2

JUMBLE
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PDETI
KNAYL
NALSID
DARTIE

We'll build right here.
You can see for miles! This is a perfect place for our new home.
WHEN THEY SETTLED WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI, THEIR NEW HOMESTEAD WAS ---

Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HIPPO APPLY NIBBLE SPOTTY
Answer: She was able to quickly reach the summit because she was — IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

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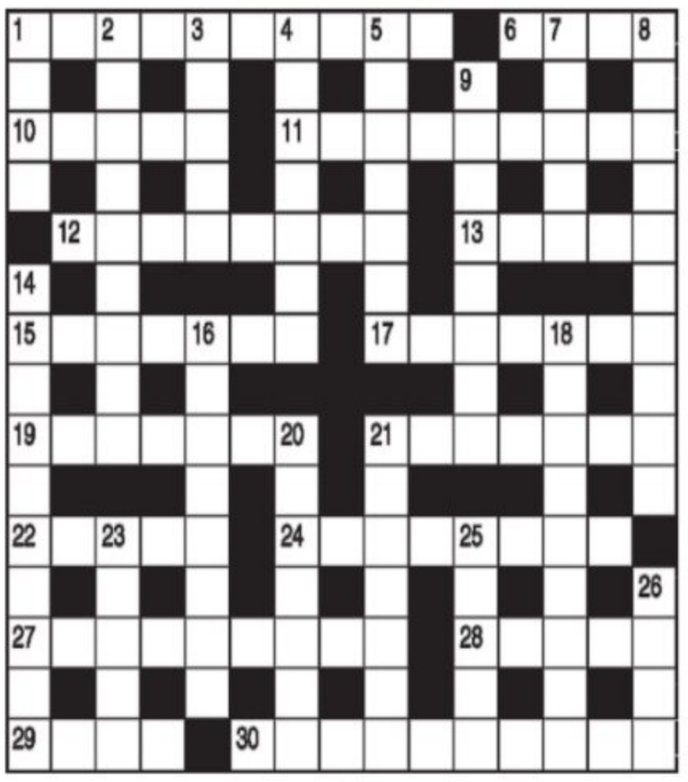
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Unnecessarily detailed design of sewer's working (10)
6 Combined nations look into pre-Christian era (4)
10 An air of sanctity (5)
11 Dancer all bare in confusion (9)
12 Wild cat's leap subdues (8)
13 Fittingly test (3,2)
15 Give help to one easily duped we hear (7)
17 Something special encountered if you go straight down (7)
19 Original place for holding races every four years (7)
21 One giving a talk - on the radio? (7)
22 What pacifists have but don't use (5)
24 Plenty of room for classy Picasso design (8)
27 Fears to be converted to traditional English food (5,4)
28 The head examiners may read them (5)
29 The advantage of keenness (4)
30 A country unable to exercise self-control (10)

DOWN

1 She has them shortened to a degree (4)
2 Call for action? (6,3)
3 It provides a measure of one's spirit (5)
4 One in argument re a debt unsettled (7)
5 Arrives with bread and drink (5,2)
7 Ordinary people from Italy (5)
8 Secures rent for one of a group of shops (5,5)
9 Taken by those who are sick and tired of work? (4-4)
14 Police chief's last resort? (3,2,5)
16 It is brought in to resist on the other side (8)
18 Reconciliation officer who works behind the scenes? (4-2,3)
20 To lead such a life is simple - and hard (7)
21 This is the simple bit (7)
23 Coarse jargon used in various languages (5)
25 Where the retired gardener may be found working? (2,3)
26 See the key goes to the agent (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Stardom, 5 Pumps, 8 Overtaken, 9 Tea, 10 Mean, 12 Multiple, 14 Patron, 15 Broody, 17 Electric storm, 18 Oslo, 21 Cos, 22 No regrets, 24 Desks, 25 Everest.

Down: 1 Ave, 3 Date, 4 Make up, 5 Puncture, 6 Metaphors, 7 Shapely, 11 Actresses, 13 Portends, 14 Pierced, 16 Tierce, 19 Onset, 20 Ague, 23 Eve.

BBMP has banned the sale of meat in Bengaluru on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami on Tuesday. Slaughter houses and meat shops within BBMP limits will not be allowed to open, said Joint Commissioner (Animal Husbandry)

'HINDI POLITICS'

HDK BATS FOR KANIMOZHI, SAYS SOUTH LEADERS AN IGNORED LOT

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

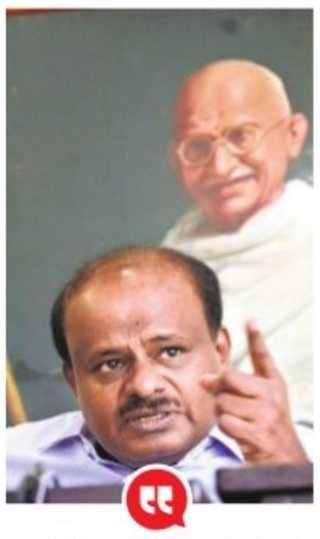
OPPOSITION party leaders from Karnataka are standing in solidarity with Tamil Nadu MP and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader M K Kanimozhi over the Hindi issue. Kanimozhi on Sunday had alleged that a CISF official asked her if "she was an Indian" as she could not speak Hindi, while the paramilitary force ordered an inquiry asserting that it is not its policy to insist upon any particular language.

Former Chief Minister and JDS Legislature Party Chief H D Kumaraswamy on Monday went all guns blazing against what he termed the imposition of Hindi on non-Hindi speaking population and the politics around it.

In a statement, Kumaraswamy said that many prominent politicians from South India had been denied opportunities due to the 'Hindi politics'.

"Now, it is apt to debate how political leaders from the South were snatched of their opportunities by Hindi politics and discrimination. Hindi politics has prevented many South Indians from becoming PM – Deve Gowda, Karunanidhi and Kamaraj are prominent (SIC). Though Deve Gowda was successful in breaking this barrier, there were several incidents of him being criticised and ridiculed for reasons of language," he said.

He also noted that Deve Gowda had been forced to deliver his Independence Day speech in Hindi for the sake of farmers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and shared his own experiences as Member of Parliament.



The ruling class ignores the South with disdain. I have seen from close quarters on how Hindi politicians manoeuvre. Most of them don't respect non-Hindi politicians

HD Kumaraswamy,
JDS Legislature Party Chief

"The ruling class ignores the South with disdain. I have seen from close quarters on how Hindi politicians manoeuvre. Most of them don't respect non-Hindi politicians," he said and added that the disdain continues in public sector jobs as well where candidates are compelled to write entrance exams in either English or Hindi with no option of mother tongue.

Congress leaders like Jayanagar MLA Sowmya Reddy too showed solidarity with Kanimozhi and demanded that Hindi should not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking citizens.

Rly official wades into language row

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE inauguration of foot-operated hand wash kiosks for passengers by Bangalore Railway Division, with three housekeeping staff doing the honours on Friday, earned it praise. However, by Sunday night, it landed Divisional Railway Manager Ashok Kumar Verma right into the middle of a raging language controversy.

The two kiosks were sponsored by Hindustan Unilever Limited to Bengaluru Division and had stickers on them in English and Hindi. In the aftermath of DMK MP Kanimozhi's statement that she was asked to speak in Hindi in the airport in her own state, and the issue, snowballing into a North vs South language war, caught fire unexpectedly on Twitter.

Atticus Balgit Finch queried thus: "Why Hindi in South India?" The DRM responded: "Because it is India." To another tweet, he replied: "All efforts are being made to provide important info in local language as well. Making issue of language every time even if it is a small sticker on the item donated by an outsider agency is not correct. Instead of appreciating the effort, you bring anti-Hindi views every time."

It drew 185 responses, many quite harsh. Anil Kumar K reacted sharply: "Whoever handling this account needs to be brought to realization. This person does not understand the constitution of India." Another tweet said, "We are not slaves and are proud Kannadigas." Some trolls even urged Union Minister Suresh Angadi or CM to take action against the DRM.

The arguments which began on Sunday night continued till 7pm Monday. Abin Pues tweeted: "It became an issue bcos you concluded Hindi=India which is against the very spirit on which the country was formed."

SWR Chief Public Relations Officer E Vijaya said, "The foot operated sanitiser kiosk was provided by HUL under its CSR scheme. The stickers too were provided by them. Later, stickers in Kannada too were provided."

Flood damage: Ministers moot long-term solutions

Ashoka, Bommai speak to PM Modi during video conference, seek relief

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

PEGGING the overall damage caused by heavy rains, coastal erosion, flooding and landslides since June at about Rs 4,000 crore, Revenue Minister R Ashoka and Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday that the State needs immediate relief in the form of a special assistance package. In the absence of Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa who was in hospital, Ashoka and Bommai participated in the video conference.

"Since we do not know when the rains will stop and what more damage we may have to face, we have sought for an advance of Rs 395 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund. The request for additional special assistance is to ensure the relief and rehabilitation process is not hindered. But there is no shortage of funds in the State. We have enough money to carry out rescue and relief operations.

Ministers R Ashoka and Basavaraj Bommai at a meet with PM Narendra Modi

A sum of Rs 1,120 cr is available in the District Commissioner's accounts," said Ashoka.

With districts along the Krishna River basin bearing the brunt of flooding almost every year, Karnataka has proposed that an inter-state flood alert system be set up. "We have requested the Centre to set up an integrated flood forecasting system that will ensure a reporting and response system for all riparian states," said Bommai. The State government has also sought the mapping of fragile landscapes in the Western Ghats and identifying landslide-prone regions.

"We have sought for the setting up of a landslide hazard mapping and monitoring system," Bommai added.

Pointing out that erosion along the coastline is impacting life and livelihood in coastal districts, Karnataka has asked the Centre to include coastal erosion and sea erosion under the National Cyclone Relief Mitigation Project. "The initiative of setting up a disaster management committee at the gram panchayat level by Ashoka was applauded by the PM. We will set up such committees in 876 gram panchayats in 13 districts," Bommai said.

Currently, the State has four units of NDRF personnel and 200 trained SDRF personnel. This apart, the State has sought four additional teams of NDRF for relief, rescue and rehabilitation measures.

The Union government has reserved four IAF helicopters for the state for emergencies and army personnel have been deployed for relief operations too

Basavaraj Bommai, Home Minister

KRISHNA NI BEGANE BAARO

Vendors sell idols of Krishna at Gandhi Bazaar, on the eve of Janmashtami, which will be a low-key affair this year, on Monday in Bengaluru | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

Five PES University students clear UPSC exams

Bengaluru: Five students of PES University are all set to become civil servants after clearing the UPSC exams. Mithun H N, an electronics and communication engineering student, achieved rank 359, and computer science engineering students Kriti B achieved rank 297, Sparsha Nilangi (rank 443), Vivek H B (rank 444), and Savita Gotyal (rank 626). Over 50 students of the university attempt civil services examinations every year, including the KAS and KSP, according to a press release.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase and enter JDA for the land in Sy.No. 33/1, 33/2A & 33/2B measuring 1 Acre 20 Gunta, 28 Gunta & 28 Gunta respectively, all situated at Shankanipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

If any of the person is having any objection for the transaction, may kindly forward their objection within seven days to

Mr. Sharath. R, Advocate
3456, 1st Floor, 1st 'F' Cross, Beside BMTC Bus Depot, 7th Main,2nd Stage, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 40.

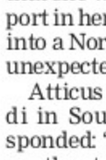
PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Smt. Sannamma** W/o. **Late.Mariyappa,** residing at behind 15th cross, Billikallu, Ullal Road, Bydarahalli, Magadi Main Road, I have lost my Original Rectification deed executed on dt. 30.10.2006 Registered as **document No. 48272/2006-07 On 07.07.2020** at the time of taking photocopy in Xerox Shop in Bharath nagar (magadi main road) Bengaluru.

Any Person found the above said documents be pleased to return the same to the above mentioned Address.

Deepa A.M, Advocate
No.6, Bhumika, 80 feet Road, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar Bangalore-560040

PUBLIC NOTICE



Public is hereby informed that **Dr. RAMEGOWDA. K. A,** S/o Dr. Anjanya Gowda of M/s. Vagus Super Speciality Hospital last known address of No.50/3, 2nd Floor, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003 and Chairman of Vidyapana International School, M. Uppahalli - 563139 Malur Dist , Karnataka, that the said person was the subscriber in my client company M/s. Surabhi Chits Ltd and became a defaulter in the year 2014 and is due to pay a sum of Rs.10,29,94,941/- to Company as on date, Further Execution proceedings were filed before the Hon'ble City Civil Court (CCH-57), Bangalore in Ex.No.1614/2016, Ex.No.1615/2016, Ex.No.1616/2016, Ex.No.1617/2016 and Ex.No.1618/2016, Ex.No.1619/2016, Ex.No.1620/2016 and Ex.No.2549/2017 Ex.No.3092/2017, Ex.No.3093/2017 and also 138 proceedings have also been initiated against Dr.Ramegowda K.A before 28th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore in C.C.No.19468/2018. In the all mentioned cases the Dr.Ramegowda.K.A is not appearing and has been absconding for past few years. **The said informer will be rewarded suitably.** That whosoever finds the whereabouts of Dr. Ramegowda may contact below:

B. G. Rajshekar, Advocate,
Sri Datta Arcade, 3rd Floor, #2/1, 2nd main, 5th Cross, Gandhinagr, Bengaluru-560009"
Ph. No. 9448368476, 9008717454, 8553382722
Bangalore, Date: 10.08.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Sri MARUTHI ADDULA** and **RAJANI ADDULA,** will to purchase vacant site from **Sri G.B. Harish Kumar S/o Late Sri Badraiah,** in respect of Property bearing **Vacant Site No.171,** Measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South: 18 feet totally measuring 720 sq feet and Vacant **Site No.172,** measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet totally measuring 1200 sq feet, both sites totally 1920 sq feet, **carved out of Sy.no.3/6,** situated at Gantiganahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the

EAST BY : Road;
WEST BY : Site No.186 and 185;
NORTH BY : Private Property;
SOUTH BY : Site No.173;

the land owner has acquired the same through registered Sale Deed. The said property to be purchase by my client for construction of house in the said site.

If any person/s or any financial institutions having any claim, charge, interest, right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 7 days from this day to the undersigned.

MANJUNATHA .K.N, Advocate,
No.10, 1st Floor, Kempanna Building 18th Cross, Amruthahalli, Bangalore-560 092,
Ph: 98456 00964, 88808 88785

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI. SHIVAKUMAR. M** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and he has lost original Sale Deed dated 26/11/2004 bearing Document No.2162 / 2004-05, Book-I, stored in CD No.9, executed by Karnataka Housing Board represented by the Assistant Executive Engineer Sri. Gopal. K in favour of Sri. H. G. Renukappa registered in the office of sub registrar, Magadi. In case anybody is in possession of the said document, the same shall be handover to the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **Site No.1, LIG-11, situated at Jyothinagar Layout, Magadi Town, Magadi Taluk, Ramanagara District, property now comes under the limits of Purasabhe Magadi,** measuring east to west 7.50 meters and north to south 12 meters, and bounded on : **East by :** Site No.2, LIG-11, **West by** : Sri. Ramesh's House, **North by :** 9 meter Road, **South by :** K.H.B Land.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.276, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public that my client **Mr. Mehaboob U** S/o Ummer Sab, Residing at No.87, 13th Cross, Vidyapeeta Road, Satya Nagara, Bangalore 560060 has lost or misplaced last page of **Sale Deed Dated 21-05-1999, registered as a document No. BNG(U)-KNGR/10314/1999-2000, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore** and he has not been able to trace the same despite of his best efforts and he has lodge the police complaint to that effect on 24.07.2020.

Hence this is to inform to the general public that if any person or persons were come into the possession of the above document the same may kindly be forwarded to the undersigned advocate whose name and address is mentioned below, the finder will be suitably rewarded by the owner of the Property.

PRADEEP B. V, Advocate,
No. 114 & 115, 'Bindu Galaxy', #2, 1st Main Road, Rajajinagar, Industrial Town, Bengaluru 560010. Mobile: 94817 78692.

Can Fin Homes Ltd
No. 58, 6th cross,Manjunathnagara, Raghuvanahalli,Bangalore 560 062
Phone : 080-29751565/7625079172
e-mail Id: kanakapura@canfinhomes.com
CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699
Kanakapura Road Branch

PAPER PUBLICATION OF AUCTION-FOR MOVABLES

Sale of movable properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002). Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd.,Kanakapura road branch, has taken possession of the following assets pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on, 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' for realization of Company's dues with further interests and costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Company's dues by sale of the said assets.

Name of the Account-MIYAL SUNDARRAM KAMATH
Date of NPA: 31.07.2016
Date of Demand notice: 02.08.2016
Date of possession (Panchnama& inventory): 21.10.2016

Description of movable Property

1.	Sofa set	1 (One)	7.	Dining Chairs	3 (Three)
2.	Philips TV	1 (One)	8.	Wooden table	1 (One)
3.	Table Fan	1 (One)	9.	Double Cot with bed	1 (One)
4.	DVD Player	1 (One)	10.	TV Trolley	1 (One)
5.	Dewan	1 (One)	11.	Bero	2 (Two)
6.	Fridge	1 (One)	12.	Wardrobe with clothes	1 (One)

Total amount: Rs.3000

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Tender forms can be obtained by the intending bidders from the above office from the date of publication of this notice from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm.
2. Terms and condition:as per tender form
3. **Submission of tender form**:on or before **17.08.2020at 12.00 pm**
4. **Date,time and place of opening of tenders: on 18.08.2020 at 12.00 pm** at above mentioned office address

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 10.08.2020

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

SESHADRIPURAM INSTITUTIONS

ADMISSIONS OPEN
(Direct and Online)
for 1st PUC : 2020-21

Seshadripuram Pre-University College
27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Prof. R. V. Manjunath, Principal
Tel: 22955358. website: spucmain.ac.in
Commerce: SEBA / MEBA / CEBA / MSBA | Science: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

Seshadripuram Composite Pre-University College
40, Girls' School Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Prof G. K. Manjunath, Principal
Tel: 22955365. website: scpucblr.ac.in
Commerce: MSBA / MEBA / SEBA / CEBA | Science: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

Seshadripuram Pre-University College
26, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560 064.
Prof. T. Doddegowda, Principal
Tel: 28462765. website: www.scpuc.ac.in
Commerce: SEBA / HEBA / MEBA / CEBA / MSBA | Science: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

Seshadripuram Pre-University College
18, 2nd Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bengaluru-560 060.
Dr. R. Manjunath, Principal
Tel: 22955377. website: www.spuc.ac.in
Commerce: SEBA / MEBA / CEBA | Science: PCMB / PCME / PCMCs

Seshadripuram Independent Pre-University College
65, 10th Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023.
Prof. C. Sumathi, Principal
Tel: 22955368. website: www.sipuc.ac.in
Commerce: CEBA / MEBA / MSBA / SEBA

Seshadripuram Evening Pre-University College
27, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020.
Prof. R. Mahalakshmi, Principal
Tel: 22955359. website: www.sepuc.ac.in
Commerce: HEBA / CEBA

N. R. Pandith Aradhya, President
Dr. Wooday P. Krishna, Hon. General Secretary

QuoteExpress
IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING › WINSTON CHURCHILL

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಕಾಸ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್
ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಪ್ರಯೋಜಿತ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯದ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ಡ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್
Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
A Scheduled Bank Owned by Government-Sponsored by Canara Bank
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಛೇರಿ : ಧಾರವಾಡ | Head office : Dharwad
Head Office, P. B. No.111, Belagavi Road, Dharwad-580 008 (Karnataka)

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS

TOTAL BUSINESS CROSSED
Rs.26,000 CRORE

9 DIFFERENT AWARDS FROM PFRDA FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT UNDER APY

ABRIDGED BALANCE SHEAT AS ON 31st MARCH 2020 FORM- A (Amount in Rs.000's)

BUSINESS TURNOVER RS. 26269 Crore Up By 5.80%
TOTAL DEPOSITS RS. 15178 Crore Up By 9.24%
TOTAL ADVANCES RS. 11090 Crore Up By 1.43%
CASA RS. 6151 Crore Up By 16.01%
NET WORTH Rs. 1138.53 Crore

CAPITAL & LIABILITIES	SCHEDULE NO	AS AT 31-03-2020	AS AT 31-03-2019
CAPITAL	1	239732	239732
RESERVES & SURPLUS	2	11145544	17195173
DEPOSITS	3	151784934	138948848
BORROWINGS	4	25638349	17468302
OTHER LIABILITIES	5	7919482	6048244
TOTAL		196728041	179900299
PROPERTIES & ASSETS	**SCHEDULE NO**	**AS AT 31-03-2020**	**AS AT 31-03-2019**
CASH & BALANCE WITH RBI	6	6144421	8459947
BALANCE WITH OTHER BANKS & MONEY AT CALL & SHORT NOTICE	7	47048382	31101762
INVESTMENTS	8	31823308	29056578
ADVANCES	9	103332945	105223226
FIXED ASSETS	10	183992	201852
OTHER ASSETS	11	8194993	5856934
TOTAL		196728041	179900299
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	12	4924042	3026660
BILLS FOR COLLECTION		24167	31771

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MARCH-2020 FORM-B

PARTICULERS	SCHEDULE NO	AS AT 31-03-2020	AS AT 31-03-019
1 INCOME			
INTEREST EARNED	13	13115696	13865565
OTHER INCOME	14	1812690	1254762
TOTAL		14928386	15120327
2 EXPENDITURE			
INTEREST EXPENDED	15	8967473	8814101
OPERATING EXPENSES	16	7759945	4273603
PROVISIONS & CONTIGENCIES	17	4250597	1531452
TOTAL		20978015	14619156
3 PROFIT / LOSS - NET PROFIT (+) / LOSS (-) FOR THE PERIOD		-6049629	501171
PROFIT/LOSS BROUGHT FORWARD		9781629	9432548
TOTAL		3732000	9933719
4 APPROPRIATION			
TRANSFER TO STATUTORY RESERVE		0	100234
TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE		0	1856
TRANSFER TO SPECIAL RESERVE U/S 36 (1) (VIII) OF I.T. ACT		0	50000
BALANCE CARRIED OVER		3732000	9781629
TOTAL		3732000	9933719
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE (FACE VALUE OF Rs.10 EACH)		-252.35	20.91
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE (FACE VALUE OF Rs.10 EACH)		-252.35	20.91
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	18		
NOTES ON ACCOUNT	19		

TOTAL DISBURSEMENT Rs. 5626 Crore
PMJJBY : 4.6 LAKH PMSBY : 10.95 LAKH APY : 1.37 LAKH (POLICIES)
CRAR 10.69%
OPERATING IN 9 DISTRICTS 633 BRANCHES 76 ATMs 1 CURRENCY CHEST
8.8 MILLION CUSTOMERS

SRIPADA RAO M. CHIEF MANAGER
CHANDRASHEKAR D. MORO GENERAL MANAGER
P. GOPI KRISHNA CHAIRMAN
FOR MANIAN & RAO CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS FRN : 0019835

DATE : 27th July 2020
PLACE : Dharwad

Board of Directors :
D. K. KASHYAP (RBI), CHANDAN S CHATTERJEE (NABARD), B. CHANDRASEKHARA RAO (Canara Bank), K. V. N. MURTHY (Canara Bank)

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU TUESDAY 11.08.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

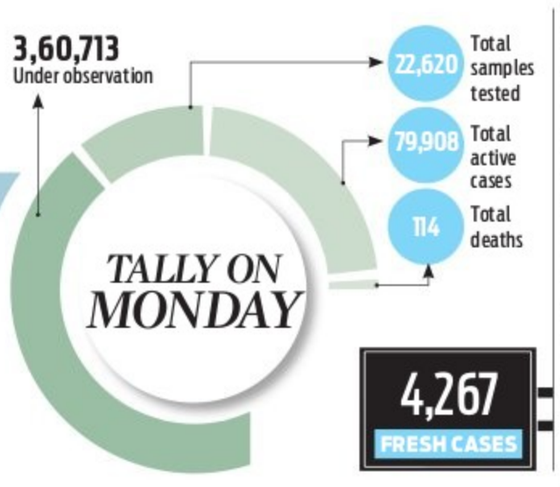
After witnessing 5,000 to 7,000 cases per day in the last one week, Karnataka recorded a lower number of cases on Monday with 4,267 positives

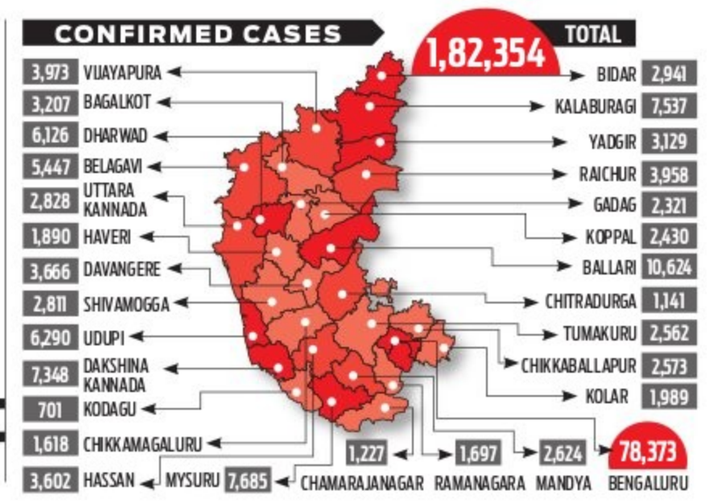
5,218 NEW RECOVERIES

99,126 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





INDIA NEEDS 1.5L NURSES, 50K DOCS FOR COVID CARE: DOC

Doctors, nurses and paramedics can register on the Covid Healthcare Professionals platform and get suitable jobs | EXPRESS

Final-year students should be passed without exam if they work with corona patients for 1 yr: Devi Shetty

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE country needs 1.5 lakh nurses, 50,000 doctors who are young and skilled in ICU care to work for the next one year on Covid care, renowned cardiologist Dr Devi Shetty said on Monday while speaking at the virtual launch of Covid Healthcare Professionals (CHP).

"Final year students of BSc nursing, doctors in final year PG, MB or DNB courses should be considered passed without writing the exam, if they work for the next one year with Covid patients. We also need telemetric devices that will check BP, respiration, pulse rate, ECG analysis, risk, saturation level to replace nurses' touch for corona patients. They can come in only in advanced stages like ventilator handling. The data can be sent to senior doctors, who cannot enter the ICU, for analysis," Dr Shetty said.

He said that private medical colleges should adopt the 740-odd government district hospitals and convert them into medical colleges. The government must allow private hospitals to charge as per market rates, so they can in turn cross-subsidise rates for patients in need.

Doctors, nurses and paramedics can register on the CHP platform and get suitable jobs in hospitals looking to hire staff. Of the 1,400 professionals registered on CHP, 51 medicos and four hospitals are from Karnataka.

The platform is built by ECHO India, a healthcare non-profit, in association with Naukri.com, and will profile medical skills and match them with hospitals. Already, 60 hospitals have registered on it and the aim is to have 10,000 healthcare workers on it, treating 1,00,000 Covid patients.

Dr Arvind Lal, chairman, Dr Lal Path Labs, said there is a huge shortage of health professionals, with India requiring 10 lakh doctors, 20 lakh nurses and 30 lakh paramedics. Through this portal, a person registers and finds a match based on location and language.

"They are asked questions on the amount of time they can dedicate, their area of specialization and a set of people is listed and sent to hospitals, which in turn conduct one-on-one interviews. The selected people are trained to handle the coronavirus and how to protect oneself while on duty. They are free to negotiate salary with the employers," Dr (Col) Kumud Rai, Chairman & Managing Trustee, ECHO India, told TNIE on the sidelines.

Home isolation: Govt panel to conduct triage over phone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State government issued revised guidelines for home isolation of Covid-positive patients on Monday.

According to the new rules, an empanelled agency will conduct a telephonic triage of the patient.

A team of health workers will visit the patient and conduct the triage. Alternatively, an external agency will conduct a telephonic triage.

The home isolated patient can be discharged after 10 days. The patient will have to undergo an additional seven days of home isolation after this.

Pregnant women can undergo home isolation for two weeks before they are due for delivery. Further, the health workers will enquire about comorbidities.

Tele-monitoring will be arranged through a government or a private institution, as per the patient's choice.

A home isolation notice shall be pasted on the front door of the patient's house.

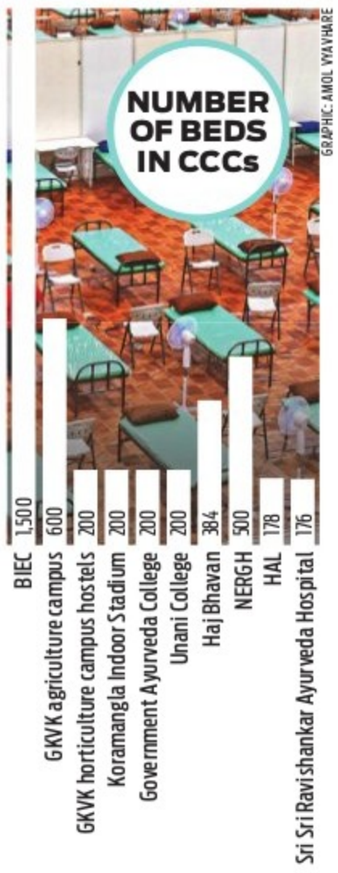
Most beds occupied: CCCs take the load off hospitals

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

COVID Care Centres (CCCs) in Bengaluru are bringing down the load on government and private hospitals. A total of 3,480 patients are admitted across the 11 CCCs in the city, and officers in charge of them say a large number of asymptomatic patients are being tested and admitted at these centres.

There are 4,276 beds in these 11 CCCs, and of the 3,480 patients occupying them, 310 were discharged on Monday. The bed vacancy at the centres now stands at 18.67 per cent. The percentage of asymptomatic patients has been gradually on the rise - 83.1 per cent on August 7, 85.8 per cent on August 9, and 88.3 per cent on August 10. Across the state, 83 per cent of the cases are asymptomatic, while 17 per cent are symptomatic.

Rajender Kumar Kataria, who heads the CCC task force, said, "Every day, about 23 per cent of the patients are asymptomatic, and are admitted to CCCs. We also see more than 350 discharges every day. This is reducing the burden on designated Covid hospitals. We also have adequate doctors, nurses and paramedical staff to check on patients."



Sarfaraz Khan, BBMP Special Commissioner and part of the CCC task force, said, "We have arranged for a few oxygen cylinders too for emergency situations."

The officials told TNIE that the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) CCC has a 10,500-bed capacity, and right now, there are 1,500 beds of which 939 are occupied. A total of 4,000 more beds will be kept ready. "We have 4,000 beds ready, which will be used when there is a case surge. However, we will need additional staffers in such a scenario, which we are working on," Khan said. Kataria pointed out that two more spots have been identified in the city to create CCCs.

A 60-year-old patient who was recently discharged from the Haj Bhavan CCC, said, "The facilities at the CCC are good, it doesn't feel like we are at a hospital."

'AAP'KE SEVA MEIN

AAP workers checked pulse and temperature of residents in Pulakeshinagar in Bengaluru on Monday | SHRIRAM B N

Govt urged to launch drive to stem stigma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE government must carry out an awareness campaign on Covid-19 so that the patients and those discharged are not stigmatised. This was the appeal of the discharged patients at a web conference with the State government officials on Monday. The focus of the conference was on how to remove the stigma.

Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said, "Our fight should be against the disease, not against the persons with infections. Fear and anxiety about the disease can lead people to be biased and hurtful towards their fellow citizens. We have several examples of such outbursts since the pandemic started tightening its grip on India. This is very dangerous and we should join hands to remove this stigma from the society."

Mandya MP Sumalatha Ambareesh who tested positive and was discharged after she recovered, said, "The stigma around Covid-19 continues. The day I tested positive, I put it up on my social media handles as the people should take it positively. Many still tend to hide they are Covid positive and that's not the right thing to do. And those who want to inform all are scared that they would be stigmatized. A wide-spread campaign of awareness that corona is not a monster needs to be carried out. Even if it is, we can overcome it. More celebrities too need to spread awareness."

Bhagavn Srinivasan, another discharged patient, said, "Social awareness about Covid is important and the virus is not something one needs to fear. I have been spreading the word that there is no need to fear the virus and that we can overcome it. If the government spreads the awareness, it will reach many people."

COVID WATCH

CFTRI Covid lab opens at Govt Ayurveda Hospital

Mysuru: The CSIR- CFTRI laboratory was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G Shankar at the Government Ayurveda Hospital on Monday. Dr Prakash M Halami, Chief Scientist and Head of Microbiology and Fermentation Technology said they have two PCR machines and to start with they can conduct 100 tests. "We can conduct 600 tests a day provided the district administration sends technicians. Meanwhile, the district administration has increased Rapid Antigen Test across the city. **ENS**

State records 4,267 positives, 114 fatalities

ENS @Bengaluru

THE state recorded 4,267 positive cases on Monday taking the state tally to 1,82,354 cases. Of these, Bengaluru contributed to 1,243 cases, and now, total cases in the city are 75,428.

Mysuru recorded second highest cases 374 positives, Ballari with 253, Davanagere with 225 and Kalaburagi with 196 cases.

As many as 114 deaths were reported taking the toll in the state to 3,312 fatalities. Bengaluru Urban alone saw 36 deaths. Four of the were brought dead.

As many as 5,218 patients were discharged and the total discharges are 99,126 now, leaving 79,908 active cases. Of these 681 are in the ICU currently, with 324 of them in Bengaluru alone.

PIC: SHRIRAMBN

Planning vaccine research centre in B'luru: DyCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE State is collaborating with the Emory Vaccine Center of Atlanta University to establish an Immunology and vaccine research centre in Bengaluru, said Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwatha Narayana who is also the minister for IT & BT. He was speaking at a webinar meeting held on Monday with Dr Rafi Ahammad, director, Emory Vaccine Center.

"Immunology is going to be the prospective area in the near future. Vaccines, infectious diseases, cancer research, etc all these boil down ultimately to immunology. The results of research done now in the field of immunology will be the solutions to the problems of the coming days. Hence, investments done in this area are going to fetch fruitful results," he said.

At a time when the entire world is pondering about immunology and effective vaccines, the decision to set up such a centre is conducive, he said. The State government is also very keen on the novel ways of Covid diagnostic tests, he said.

There are not less than 20 institutions of national eminence which are engaged in vaccine development activities. All these will be integrated and the government is ready to support them through policy implementation. The rigid restrictions which were in place earlier with regard to clinical trials are now being relaxed, he said.

Dr Rafi said, "The Emory Vaccine Center has developed a highly sensitive rapid test for Covid. This method has been adopted by hospitals in Atlanta, successfully. Plasma therapy and human molecular antibodies development are the other areas in which the Emory Center has been engaged."

"There is scope for academic collaboration between Karnataka and Emory Center and in the current situation, this can be achieved through an online platform. This will particularly be helpful for students of doctoral studies," Rafi said. He said the center would come out with a specific proposal of collaboration to submit before the Government of Karnataka.

Ayurveda hospital releases immunity booster kit

Mysuru: To enhance people's immunity during the pandemic, JSS Ayurveda hospital has come up with a kit (in picture) comprising of Rasayana, extract of turmeric, fumigation stick, and nasal drops. Suttur mutt seer Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji launched the immunity booster kit at an event held in the city on Monday. The kits will be available at the JSS Ayurveda hospital and JSS Hospital on MG Road. **ENS**

Covid-19 to change the way you spend

The pandemic can alter consumer behaviour permanently and cause structural changes to consumer goods and retail industries, says a new study. Here are the key findings

Consumers are focused on their most basic needs while cutting back on non-essential items
Pandemic is making more people shop for groceries online
PEOPLE ARE STRIVING TO LIMIT FOOD WASTE, SHOPPING MORE COST-CONSCIOUSLY, AND ARE MAKING HEALTHIER AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CHOICES
The pandemic has taken a toll on brand loyalty as consumers now prefer more local products
To retain shopper's trust, brands will need to show proof of good hygiene as well as safety
Demand for products through home delivery and virtual consultations is surging, and is likely to continue after this crisis
Source: Accenture Covid-19 Consumer Pulse Research

CHANGING TIMES

Covid gives boost to robot-assisted surgeries

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

WHILE Covid-19 has put a virtual halt to elective surgeries, robotic-assisted surgeries (RAS) have come to the aid of critical patients. The onset of Covid pandemic has given a boost to RAS and many such systems have been installed in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Kolkata in the last few months alone. Since the lockdown was announced four months ago, more than 400 RAS have been conducted in Bengaluru.

In RAS, a robot guides a surgeon's movements, making surgeries more precise, reducing the surgery's impact on healthy tissues and decreasing the risk of potential human errors. These surgeries are safer, quicker and help patients recover faster. Dr Mohan Keshavamurthy, Director, Urology, Uro-oncology, Andrology, Transplant & Robotic Surgery, Fortis Hospitals, who has performed over 20 surgeries during the lockdown, told TNIE, "We use the Da Vinci surgical system, considered one of the most advanced medical robots, along with Airseal insufflator which prevents aerosol infections which are most dreaded during surgeries."

During the pandemic, apart from surgeries, the duration of stay at the hospital too has become important. RAS definitely helps, said Dr Manohar T, Chief of advanced Urology, Laser, Laparoscopy and Robotics Urology, Columbia Asia Hospitals. "RAS is favourable as it lowers chances of blood transfusion and pain," he added.

Experts said that while many elective surgeries can be postponed, there are a few that need immediate attention. Dr Somshekhar, Chairman & Robotic Surgeon, Hipec Super Specialist Manipal Comprehensive Cancer Centre, said, "Hospitals kept non-Covid surgeries on hold at the start of the pandemic, fearing transmission of infection. Critical surgeries had to be completed quickly and RAS helped. We could complete over 350 surgeries using robots since the lockdown. The procedure requires only a small team of medical professionals with the surgeon sitting at the console placed far away from the patient."

Dr Mohan said that RAS costs about ₹1 lakh more than normal surgeries. "It is definitely picking up in the country," he added.

India needs 1.5 lakh nurses, 50,000 doctors who are young and skilled in ICU care to work for the next one year on Covid care, renowned cardiologist Dr Devi Shetty said on Monday while speaking at the virtual launch of Covid Healthcare Professionals (CHP).

Permanent flood camps on the cards

Karnataka to set aside ₹200 crore for new relief centres in flood-prone districts

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

AT a cost of ₹200 crore, the Karnataka government is all set to approve the construction of permanent, designated relief and rehabilitation centres in flood-prone districts in Karnataka. Revenue Minister R Ashoka, following a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, said that orders will be issued to set up centres in flood-prone regions instead of converting schools, colleges and hostels into makeshift relief camps. "During my tour of the affected districts, I saw overcrowding at relief camps. We will set aside ₹200 crore to set up rehabilitation centres," Ashoka said.

The minister said that the substandard food being served at existing relief camps will be replaced with a nutritious diet. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has insisted that people in relief camps should take precautions against Covid-19. We will supply masks and sanitiser, and will also conduct Rapid Antigen Tests," he added.

Responding to questions over pending relief for victims of 2019 floods, Ashoka said that ₹334.29 crore had been released from his department towards the third, fourth and fifth instalment of compensation. He said that many beneficiaries who took the first instalment of ₹1 lakh, had not started work on rebuilding their houses and hence had not applied for future instalments. "This time as well, a compensation of ₹5 lakh will be provided to those who have lost their homes, ₹3 lakh for partial damages and ₹50,000 for small damages apart from ₹10,000 for essentials will be given," Ashoka said.

We will supply masks and sanitiser, and will also conduct Rapid Antigen Tests

R Ashoka, Karnataka Revenue Minister

NDRF and police personnel carry out rescue operations at Talacauvery | Express

PUJA AT TALACAUVERY TEMPLE TO RESTART AFTER ROAD CLEARANCE

District Minister V Somanna and officials, among others, held a meeting with the Talacauvery temple committee to discuss restarting regular puja, which is expected to resume only after the road to the temple is cleared.

Search ops continue at Talacauvery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

THE search operation for the four missing persons at the Talacauvery landslide site continued for the fourth day. NDRF and local police were involved in the search operation; however, no trace of the missing persons was unearthed on Monday. Meanwhile, the contractors of earth movers refused to carry out the operation as they alleged that they had not been paid for last year's flood-relief work. They, however, resumed work after District Minister V Somanna assured to release the pending payment.

"The Talacauvery Temple priest Narayana Achar's belongings including his clothes were found under the debris of the landslide. A book written by deceased Ananda Theerta Swami (whose dead body was retrieved on Saturday) - Sakshi Chaithanya - was also retrieved from the debris on Monday. However, the team has not traced the missing persons yet. On Wednesday 4 pm (the day before the landslide), I visited the priest's house even as I helped him fix the roofing of the house, which had blown away due to wind. However, on Thursday morning, there was no trace of the house," recalled Jayathu, the driver of Narayana Achar.

Meanwhile, the daughters of the missing temple priest - Namitha and Sharada - on Monday arrived at Bhagamandala from Australia and New Zealand. District Minister V Somanna escorted them to the spot

The family requested the officials to speed up the search operation.

In Belagavi, gruel centres, goshalas set up to aid dist

SUNIL PATIL @Belagavi

FOLLOWING heavy rains in the Western Ghats in Maharashtra, the River Krishna is flowing in full spate this year too. All the dams built across the river are also full.

To mitigate the issues that arise during floods, the district administration is ready with 573 gruel centres and 230 goshalas to cater to livestock. Around 27 boats are stationed to take up rescue operations.

According to weatherman, there will be heavy rains in the coastal part, including Kolhapur in Maharashtra for next one week. Rivers Krishna, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Doodhaganga, Vedganga and Markandey, Ballari Nala are flowing in spate in the district.

The authorities will have to evacuate people and cattle from the villages from river basins to a safer place. The district administration has identified convention centres, community halls and school buildings at elevated regions for sheltering people. Meanwhile, 25 NDRF personnel and 20 SDRF personnel are stationed at flood prone regions in the district.

"Water level at Krishna, Ghataprabha and Malaprabha rivers has increased, but we are prepared to tackle the situation. Nodal officers will be appointed at taluk levels to monitor arrangements at shelters and goshalas," DC M G Hiremath said.

The road near Rani Chennamma Circle in Belagavi is riddled with potholes | ASHISHKRISHNA PENDSE

Water level at Krishna, Ghataprabha and Malaprabha rivers has increased... Nodal officers will be appointed at taluk levels to monitor arrangements at shelters and goshalas

M G Hiremath, DC, Belagavi

'STATES MUST BE INTIMATED BEFORE DAM WATER RELEASE'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN THE HC

CONSISTENT with the directions by the Karnataka High court, the Union Government on Monday has ordered that when a decision is taken by a state government, union territory or dam authority to release water from a dam/reservoir, within its limits, it will have to immediately intimate the adjacent/downstream state/UT, so as to mitigate flood damage.

The Union Government placed a copy of the directions issued on August 9 before the division bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice Ashok S Kinagi, in compliance of the order passed by the court in relation to PIL filed by A Mallikarjuna from Tumakuru.

On July 24, 2020, the bench had directed the National Executive Committee of the National Disaster Management Authority to consider the powers under Section 10 of the Disaster Management Act and issue directions to state governments mandating them to intimate neighbouring states when the need arises.

The directions read, "Whenever a decision is taken by a state, union territory or authority to release water from reservoirs or dams within its limits, an immediate intimation has to be issued to concerned authorities of the neighbouring state/UT."

The Ministry of Jal Shakti also made it clear that the said-decision should be communicated sufficiently in advance. It clarified that these directions are issued only in the context of the Disaster Management Act, with a view to forewarn the receiving state or union territory of a possible disaster.

These directions are not intended at interfering or regulating the rights and liabilities of a state or union territory government with regard to the quantum of water entitlement either as per their claim, or as per the directions of a competent body, tribunal or court, the Ministry of Jal Shakti said in the order.

Eight get anticipatory bail in Maiya's suicide case

MG CHETAN @Bengaluru

A city court granted anticipatory bail to eight people, including the CEO of Sri Guru Raghavendra Credit Cooperative Bank, who have been accused of abetting the suicide of the bank's former CEO M Vasudeva Maiya.

Maiya had committed suicide by consuming poison on July 6. The case was handed over to the CID, which is probing a scam related to the bank. Based on a complaint by Maiya's daughter, the police had named 11 people, including five bank staffers, as the accused.

The five bank staffers — CEO Santhosh Kumar A, Ravikumar Aithal, Rakesh D, Shripad Hegde and Prashanth HR — had moved a single anticipatory bail petition in the 51st Additional City Civil & Sessions Court. The court, while granting bail to them on Friday, observed, "By referring to the allegation made in the Maiya's death note, the complainant mentioned the names of some of the petitioners in her complaint. However, there is no prima-facie allegation made against these petitioners alleging abetment to suicide. It is needless to mention that the first petitioner (Santhosh Kumar) has lodged the complaint (against Maiya) as per the instructions of the Board of directors of the bank. That is not sufficient to infer that he is guilty of abetting the suicide"

Meanwhile, three other accused — MR Rajath and Sathyanarayana, representing SH Mines, and Venkat Ashok Kumar Reddy— had moved petitions individually and have been granted relief. The court noted their names were not mentioned in the complaint but included based on the deceased's death note.

FOUR HELD FOR POPPING WHEELIES

Bengaluru: Byatarayanapura traffic police on Sunday arrested four youths for performing wheelies using their two-wheelers on NICE Road. The police found that the youths had uploaded the videos of their stunts. The accused are Chandan (21) and Likith (21), residents of Hanumanthanagar, and Sumanth (20) and Vinay (28) of Srinagar. A police officer said that the staffers of a toll booth on NICE road informed them about the youths. During the interrogation, the police learnt that they would perform stunts on the road every weekend, the officer added.

DOCUMENTS LOST

I, **MENAKA D.** W/o Devendra, residing at No. 375, 21st Main, Judicial Layout, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore-560 064 do hereby declare that I have lost the Absolute Sale Deed in between 15-04-2020 and 16-04-2020, of Sy. No. 163, No. DNH-1-04779-2007, CD No. DNHD-141, Date: 26-11-2007. In Inspite of best efforts I could not trace the same and in this regard on 8-7-2020, I had lodged police complaint at Crime Branch Bengaluru City Police. Vide Lost Report No. 085446/2020. If anybody finds the above said documents or is in possession, please hand over the same to the above said address or contact me on 9845121797. **MENAKA D.**

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
KMML (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam-691 583, Kerala, India
Ph: +91 476 2651215 to 2561217 CIN-U74899KL1972SGC002380
Fax: 91 0476 2680101, 2686721 E-mail: contact@kmml.com, URL www.kmml.com
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** or **www.kmml.com**

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1.	2020_KMML_375451_1	For the new effluent line laying work with 450 mm dia HDPE pipe inside KMML premises from ETP pond MCC to canal mouth and canal mouth to Boat Jetty through open channel (Outside KMML premises) as turnkey basis

Chavara 11.08.2020 GM (MS/TSP&HR/EDP) For The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanitum Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
District Health and Family Welfare Office Koppal
NO: Store/Covid-19/26/2020-21 Date:02-08-2020
Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement)
E-procurement Re-Tender has been called for the supply of Medical Equipments, Reagents and Drugs for the Covid-19.
1) Last date and time for filing of tenders: 10-08-2020 on before at 5:00PM
2) Opening Date of Technical Bid: 12-08-2020 at 11:00 AM
3) Opening Date of Financial Bid: 14-08-2020 at 11:00 AM
E-Mail: dhokoppal@gmail.com
Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer Koppal

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
ESTATE BRANCH KRISHI NAGAR, DHARWAD-580005.
Fax:+91-836-2441188 Phone :+ 91-836-2440288
Email: estateofficer@rediffmail.com Epabx:+91-836-2448512/216,332,214
No.EO/DB/TN/e-Proc.T-38/2020-21 Date: 06.08.2020
"TENDER NOTIFICATION"
Tenders have been invited from registered Contractors / agencies, for work at Dharwad and Hanumanamatti campuses of the University. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). For more details please contact 0836-2214214/332 during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact ph. No: 080-23010900.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1)	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications.	21-09-2020	Up to	16.00 Hrs
2)	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders.	01-10-2020	Up to	16.00 Hrs
3)	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid.	03.10.2020	At	16.15 Hrs
4)	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid.	05.10.2020	At	16.00 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal during the entire tender process. The work orders will be issued to successful bidder subject to approval of Finance Department, Government of Karnataka.(As per G.O dtd 04-05-2020)
Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE
DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE
Manasagangothri, Mysore-570006
Ph No.: 91-821-2419268/91-821-2419554
No: MG/CS/CP/VIH/38/2020-21 Date: 07-08-2020
SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Government e-procurement portal only)
Co-ordinator, Chinese Programme, Saraswathipuram, University of Mysore, Mysuru invites Tender from eligible bidders for Providing and Fixing additional work to the existing at - Vishwamanava International Hostel, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru. The last date for submission is **05-09-2020** and the tender Indent Number is:
Tender No. **UOM/CP/WORKS/IGH/2020-2021**
For more details visit **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further clarification contact No **0821-2419268** during office Hours.
Sd/-
Co-ordinator, Chinese Programme
University of Mysore, Manasagangotri, Mysore-570006
ಮಾಸಾಂಗ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/368/2020-21

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR - 751002
E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com, Website: http/www.osscltd.in
No. Mktg. 16 Date. 10.08.2020
TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF NON SEEDS DURING 2020-21
CAD-345: Sealed tenders are invited in prescribed format only from intending tenderers for disposal of non seeds available at Bhubaneswar, Berhampur, Bargarh, Bhawanipatna, Boudh and Jeypore Zones of OSSC Ltd, as per the details attached with the tender schedule. The tender papers and other details can be downloaded from the website of OSSC Ltd i.e. www.osscltd.in on any working day from **10.00 A.M to 5.30 P.M** during the period from **12.08.2020 to 26.08.2020.**
Sd/- Managing Director
OSSC Ltd, BBSR OIPR 01045/11/0010/2021

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ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
(ASSURING QUALITY, SAVING LIVES)
Phone No. : (0674) 2380608,Website:www.osmcl.nic.in, E-mail: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Notification No. 10286 Dated 09/08/2020
SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE
CAD-338: Sealed tenders in prescribed format are invited by the Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd (OSMCL) from intended bidders for supply of **"Rapid Antigen Detection Kits for SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19)"** to The Central Drugs Store, OSMCL, Bhubaneswar as detailed in the enclosure "Annexure-A" which can be downloaded from the "Tenders" section of OSMCL's official website, i.e. **http://osmcl.nic.in** free of cost.
The technical bid and financial bid must be enclosed in two separate sealed envelopes titled **"Technical bid for Rapid Antigen Detection Kits for SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19)"** and **"Financial bid for Rapid Antigen Detection Kits for SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19)"** (Format-B). These two envelopes must then be placed in the third sealed envelope titled **"Rapid Antigen Detection Kits for SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19)"** which must be addressed to **"MANAGING DIRECTOR, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd.(OSMCL), Convent Square, Bhubaneswar – 751 007, ODISHA".** The sealed bids should reach to the above mentioned address by Speed post/Registered post/Courier only on or before 14th Aug, 2020 upto 05:00 PM.
No bid will be entertained after expiry of the prescribed date and time. The bids will be opened on **17th Aug, 2020 at 11:00 AM** in the Tender Hall of OSMCL, Bhubaneswar.
Note: ***All further notifications, corrigendum or addendums (if any) related to this tender shall be floated in OSMCL website. Bidders are advised to follow the websites timely during tender process.***
Sd/-
GM, Operation (Equipment)
OSMCL, Bhubaneswar
OIPR: 10112/11/0019/2021

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Government of Odisha
Higher Education Department
Dateline for Common PG Entrance Test-2020 (CPET-2020) for State Public Universities and Colleges
N-20: Dateline for Common PG Entrance Test-2020 (CPET-2020) for State Public Universities and Colleges with PG Courses under project Student Academic Management System (SAMS) is given below. Any change in the dateline will be published in the newspapers as well as in the website **www.dheodisha.gov.in / www.samsodisha.gov.in .** Common Prospectus (CP) for CPET-2020 is available in the said websites. Kindly refer the CP before filling up the CAF.

Sl No.	Items	Timeline
1)	Availability of online Common Application Form (CAF) in the website www.samsodisha.gov.in	12-Aug-2020 (2:00 pm)
2)	Last date of applying online CAF through www.samsodisha.gov.in	31-Aug-2020 (11:45 pm)
3)	Available of Hall Ticket in applicant e-Space for downloading	20-Sept.-2020 (2:00 pm)
4)	Commencement of Entrance Examination (CPET-2020)	30th Sept to 7th Oct-2020
5)	Updation of Graduation/Equivalent mark by applicant till	10-Oct-2020 (11:45 pm)
6)	Handing over the entrance marks to OCAC by the Entrance Exam Conducting Universities	20-Oct-2020
7)	Publication of State wide merit list	25-Oct-2020
8)	Completion of Admission Process by the respective Universities and Colleges, offiering PG teaching facility	20-Nov-2020
9)	Commencement of PG 1st Year Classes	01-Dec-2020

For more details please contact
e-Admission "SANJOG" Helpline (Toll Free) Number 155335 / 1800-345-6770
N.B. : Candidates, whose final U.G. results are awaited (not published) can also apply on-line in the Common Application Form to appear CPET-2020. But, they must upload their marks prior to preparation of Final State Merit List within the dateline, failing which, their applications will not be considered.
Sd/- Officer-In-Charge, PTC
OIPR 11001/11/0010/2021

ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF FUNCTIONAL DIRECTORS IN ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED.
e-1: The Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMC), a Gold rated Public Sector Undertakings of Govt. of Odisha is the Largest State PSU in the Country in the Mining Sector. It recorded an annual turnover of **Rs.3975 crores in the FY-2019-20.** The Department of Public Enterprises , Govt. of Odisha on behalf of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) invites applications for the following posts of Functional Director in the Head Office of OMC Ltd. at Bhubaneswar with the scale of pay of **Rs.1,35,100- 2,16,800/- including D.A, HRA**, Medical Allowance ,perks etc at par with an Officer of OMC in CGM in E-8 rank.

Sl No	Name of the Post	No. of Post to be filled up.	Qualification
1.	Director (Personnel)	01	MBA/PGDM with specialization in HR or PG in IR with good academic record from a recognized University/Institution.
2.	Director Technical (Operation)	01	Graduate in Mining Engineering with 1st class Mines Manager's Certificate of Competency with good academic record from a recognized University/Institution.

Pay protection will be allowed to the deserving candidates from the Central or State Governments / CPSEs/State PSUs or any other Government Organization.
Prescribed format along with requisites are available at the website of the Department: **http://pe.odisha.gov.in**
Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Principal Secretary to Govt., Department of Public Enterprises, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751001 **by Speed post/Registered Post/e-mail (e-mail id: dpesec.or@nic.in) only to reach within 30 days from the date of publication of Advertisement.** Envelope containing the application should be super-scribed as **"Application for the post of Director (Personnel)/ Director (Operation) in OMC Ltd.".** Out station candidates appearing in the interview will be provided Economy Class Air fare for to & fro journey on submission of original documents.
Principal Secretary to Govt.
Public Enterprisers Department, Odisha Secretariat,
Bhubaneswar-751001.,
e-mail id: dpesec.or@nic.in
OIPR: 22001/11/0001/2021

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **D. SHIVARAJ BIST,** S/o Dhan Bahaddur, Aged about 44 years, Residing at No.128, Balaji Ocean, Narayanaghatta Village, Chandapura dommasandra Road, Bengaluru-560099, states that, in all earlier proceedings, records and acts my name has been stated as **SHIVARAJ BIST, SHIVARAJ DHAN & SHIVARAJ. D,** S/o Dhan Bahaddur. From herein after wards My name will be **D. SHIVARAJ BIST S/o Dhan Bahaddur** vide Affidavit dated 06.08.2020 sworn before the Notary Harish. G, Identified by Advocate Vinay. S, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Service No. JC-768419W, SUB-PRASHANT KUMAR,** R/at 515 Army Base Workshop, Halasuru, Bangalore-560 008, have changed my wife name from **VIJAY LAXMI** to **VIJAY LAXMI SHARMA** and DOB 10-03-1977 to 16-06-1976, vide affidavit dated 05-08-2020, before Notary Public Advocate **VARIJA C.J.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SASIKALA DEVABHAKTUNI** D/o Devabhaktuni Nageswara Prasad, aged about 42 years, Presently R/at No.62, Chodeshwari Nilaya, 3rd Cross, Meenakshi Paradise, C K Palya Main Road, Hommadevanahalli, Bannerghatta Road, Near Srinidhi College, Bengalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka 560083, have changed my name from **SASIKALA BHAGAM** to **"SASIKALA DEVABHAKTUNI"**. vide affidavit dated 10.08.2020 sworn to before Notary **Neha Baddi**, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HEMALATHA MANGILAL JAIN,** D/o Late Mr. Mangilalji Jain, residing at Flat No. 402, UP Serenity Apartments, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **HEMALATHA PANKAJ** to **HEMALATHA MANGILAL JAIN,** hereafter I shall be known and called as **HEMALATHA MANGILAL JAIN** only for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th Aug. 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T. MALLIKARJUNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEVAMMA MADAR** W/o Muttappa Madar, R/at Jainapur, Hulagbal Muddebihal Taluk, Vijapura District-586124 have changed my name to **SHANKRAMMA MUTTAPPA MADAR** vide affidavit dated: 30/07/2020 before Notary Chanchala Lakshmi Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) WAZEER AHMED, Residing at No. 550, 22nd Cross, 17th Main Road, Devrajurs Nagar, Bangalore-560026, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) VAZEER AHMED** S/o Abdul Kareem Sab vide affidavit Dated 06/08/2020 sworn before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HEMALATHA MANGILAL JAIN,** residing at Flat No. 402, UP Serenity Apartments, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **DIYA KALRA PANKAJ** to **DIYA JAIN,** hereafter she shall be known and called as **DIYA JAIN** only for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th Aug. 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T. MALLIKARJUNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VINAYAKA D.S.,
S/o. Srinivas D.R,
R/at No. 307, (Old No. 89),
22nd Cross, 6th Block,
Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560082
have changed my name to
ARUN D.S.
vide affidavit dated
07/07/2020
sworn before notary
J. Nagaraj, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAXMI, Spouse of Usha Murthy, resident of SMQ No. 178/5, Command Hospital, Air Force, Agram Post, Bangalore-560007, have changed my name from **LAXMI** to **USHA LAKSHMI** vide affidavit No. 4932 Dated 22 Jun 2020 at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HEMALATHA MANGILAL JAIN,** residing at Flat No. 402, UP Serenity Apartments, Nagappa Street, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **KARISHMA PANKAJ** to **KARISHMA JAIN,** hereafter she shall be known and called as **KARISHMA JAIN** only for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th Aug. 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T. MALLIKARJUNA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Smt. M. Sanjuktha**, D/o. Late Meganathan G., Aged about 23 years, R/at South Gilbert, Marikuppam, Ward No. 8, K.G.F. Taluk, Kolar District, today at Bangalore, hereby declare that **KANMANI** and **M. SANJUKTHA** both the names pertains to one and the same person i.e., my self. Hereinafter I will be known and called as **M. SANJUKTHA** only. Vide affidavit dated 10-08-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary K.C. Gowthami, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mamatha Kamlesh w/o Kamlesh G Jain aged 42 years, Residing at No. 6, Lakshmi Classic Home, Flat no. 201, 5th Cross, Shankarpuram, Basavanavudi, Bangalore - 560004, In my Daughter's Birth Certificate my Name wrongly entered as Mamtha Kamlesh, hereby I declare that my original name is Mamatha Kamlesh vide affidavit dated 07.08.2020 sworn before Notary B.S. Padmaprasad, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SHARANYA REBBA,** age 39 years, D/o Sri Jayaram Balasubramaniyam Iyer, R/at No. 004, Skyline Apartment, No. 548/3, Langford Road, Langford Town, Bengaluru-560 025 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SHARAYNA REBBA** and **SHARANYA IYER** are one and the same and belongs to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHARANYA IYER** only for all practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th August 2020, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. CHITRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Naba Kumar Sahu** alias **Saniya Sahu**, aged about 30 years, permanent resident of Kochaikoili, Kandagaradi, Baleshwar, Odisha - 756 042, presently working and residing at Maxwell Electrical Engineers, Sy.No. 154, Kodigehalli Industrial Area, Machohalli Gate, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore - 560 091, hereby declare that **Naba Kumar Sahu** and **Saniya Sahu** both the names pertains to one and the same person belongs to me only. Vide affidavit dated 10-08-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary K.C. Gowthami, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Kamlesh G Jain S/o H. Ghewarchand Jain aged 41 years Residing at No. 6, Lakshmi Classic Home, Flat no. 201, 5th Cross, Shankarpuram, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004, In my Daughter's Birth Certificate my Name wrongly entered as Kamlesh.G. hereby I declare that my original name is Kamlesh G Jain vide affidavit dated 07.08.2020 sworn before Notary B.S. Padmaprasad, Bangalore.

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BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Jeevan Mangal Building,No.4, 1st Floor, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560025.

O.A.No.1439/2018

BETWEEN:

Andhra Bank, South End Circle, Bangalore ...Applicant

AND

Mrs.Jayamala A & Others ...Defendants

SUMMONS/ NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23(viii) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application / interlocutory application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.27,75,453.33** (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Four hundred and Fifty Three and Thirty Three Paise Only) together with current and future interest and for other reliefs.

Take notice that you are hereby required to appear before this Tribunal to show cause on **13.11.2020 at 10.30 AM** in person or by a Pleader / Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted. Take notice of interim relief sought.

Take notice that in case of default the application / interlocutory application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 04th August 2020.

By order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II,
At Bangalore

Defendant No.3:
M/s Prabhavathi Infrastructures,
A Partnership Firm, Represented by its Managing Partner,
Mr.B.E.Praveen Kumar,
No.80, 2nd Floor, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Vysya Bank Gruha Nirmana, Sahakara Sanga Layout, Near Reliance fresh, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560029.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Prabhakar. S, aged about 49 years, son of Late. Sidda Reddy, residing at Gonighatapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows:

1. I am married to G. Anupama and we have a son named Thanush.P and daughter named Trisha.P and we possess some ancestral agricultural lands in Sy.No. 3/1, 78/2A, 78/2B, 79/1A, 79/1E, 77/1 and 77/2 situated at Gonighatapura Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk.
2. I state that, in the year 2015 the above properties were sold by me for our family necessities and welfare of the children and at the time of the above sale my children were minors and as a natural guardian I have sold the above properties.
3. I state that the aforesaid properties were sold by me as a absolute owner representing my minor childrens's for welfare of the joint family and now my son is major aged about 20 years and my daughter is still minor aged about 13 years and at the time of the sale of the above properties they were minors to the above properties. Any persons having any sort of claim on the above said properties may file their objections in writing along with supporting documents, addressed to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be construed that there are no claims of any sort over the above said properties and we shall be advised to proceed with the law. Any claims thereafter shall not be entertained.

I solemnly affirm and state on oath that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct.

DEPONENT
Prabhakar .S
Dated: 10/08/2020

Sworn to Before me
N.K. Lakshmana, B.Com, LLB
Advocate & Notary
No.111, 1st Stage, 1st Main,
KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar
Bangalore - 560079

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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Information & Public Relations Department

AMENDMENT TO TENDER NOTICE

No.003110/Advt.II/2020, **Dt. 10-08-2020**

Amendment to this Office Tender Notice No.003110/Advt.II/2020, Dt. 28-07-2020 for the published advertisement on 29-07-2020 to engage the services of eligible agency (s). **Amended as :** Date of issue of Tender schedule (RFP) has been extended upto **18-08-2020** upto **1 PM.** Sealed tenders should reach this office on or before **5.00 PM** on **18-08-2020** and opening of Technical Bid at **3.00 PM** on **19-08-2020.** For revised details can be viewed in the website : **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact Sri P. Kiran Kumar, Joint Director (Advertisements) 9121215223.

Sd/- T. Vijay Kumar Reddy, Commissioner

DIPR No.704/CL/ADVT/1/1/2020-21, Dt.10/08/2020

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru

Tender Notification (2nd Call) (Through E-Procurement portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders through E-procurement from the eligible contractors who are empanelled in KHB and also willing to empanel in KHB.

Name of work: Providing & fixing of boundary stones through Real Time Kinematic (RTK) receiver for Rajapura Layout at Anekal Taluk, Jigani Hobli in Bengaluru Urban District (Call-2).

- Tender Reference No: KHB/2020-21/OW/Work_Indent_717/Call-2 & IFT No. 11/2020-21 Date 29.07.2020
- Amount Put to tender : **Rs.6,87,853/-**
- Bid security amount : **Rs. 20,000/-**
- Last date for submission of bid: **03.9.2020 upto 4.00 PM.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address:

Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board,
Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No. 080-22213511/ 080-22100077. Website: www.karnatakahousing.com
https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/DDU/JA/2020-21

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zone office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011

No: EEP(S)/E-Procu/19/2020-21 Date : 10.08.2020

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bangalore from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz.https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.

SL No.	Name of the work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)
1	Providing our door GYM and Children equipments at Park in ward 183 (As per KW-3)	99.00	1.98
2	Improvements to Vishveshwaraiah Park in ward 183. (As per KW-3)	99.00	1.98
3	Improvements to Kuvempu Park in ward 183. (As per KW-3)	99.00	1.98
4	Improvements to Bhuvaneshwari park in ward 183. (As per KW-3)	99.00	1.98

(1) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16.00 hours on 26.08.2020. (2)** Pre-bid meeting will be held at the office of the Executive Engineer Project (South) **17.08.2020 at 3.00 P.M. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders is **26.08.2020 up to 4.00 P.M. (4)** Technical Bid Opining date: **28.08.2020 at 4.30 PM (5)** Financial Bid Opening date: **31.08.2020 at 4.00 PM.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Project South

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Asset Recovery Management Branch, No.39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, Opp FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009	Ph : 080-22955928/929 E-mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com Website:www.karnatakabank.com CIN:L85110KA1924PLC001128

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of **KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED,** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **11.11.2019** calling upon the borrower/mortgagor/ guarantor **(1) M/s R S Ram Properties (P) Ltd., Represented by its Directors: a) Mr.Raghuram R. B) Mr.Vijayendra Kumar K H at: No27/1, 2nd Floor, 17th Cross, 10th Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560086 (2) Mr.Raghuram R. S/o Late Ramachandraoppa, 28/1, 6th Main, 9th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003 (3) Mr.Vijayendra Kumar K H S/o Mr. Hanumaiah, 4329, 2nd Cross, 13th Main, Subramanya Nagar, Bengaluru-560021** to repay an total amount mentioned in the notice being **₹ 76,37,074.09 [Rupees Seventy Six Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Seventy Four and Paisa Nine Only] under OD A/c No.0557000100016401** along with future interest from **01.11.2019** within **60** days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers, the mortgagors and the guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, the mortgagors and the guarantors and the public in general **that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below** in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on this **5th day of August, 2020.**

The borrowers, the mortgagors and the guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Karnataka Bank Ltd., Malleshwaram Branch, Bengaluru** for an amount of **₹ 86,26,211.09 under OD A/c No.0557000100016401 along with future interest from 01.08.2020,** plus costs.

[The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.]

Description of the Immovable Property

All that piece & parcel of residential vacant land measuring 1640 sq.ft bearing Site No.27, Byatarayanapura, Nagarasabhe Khata No.869/188/1/27 situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk belonging to M/s R S Ram Properties Pvt. Ltd., **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Site No.20, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.26, **South by:** Road.

Place: Bengaluru.
Date: 05.08.2020

Sd/-
Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Your Family Bank Across India.

Asset Recovery Management Branch, No.39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, Opp FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009	Ph : 080-22955928/929 E-mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com Website:www.karnatakabank.com CIN:L85110KA1924PLC001128

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of **KARNATAKA BANK LIMITED,** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **11.03.2020** calling upon the borrowers/guarantors/ co-obligants/ mortgagor **(1) M/s Sri Vinayaka Steels, Represented by its proprietor Mr.Nishen S,** No.279/2, Shidlagatta Cross, Vijayapura, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 562132, **(2) Mr.Nishen S, S/o Mr.Sonne Gowda N,** #116, Bijavara Village, Vijayapura, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural-562135, **(3) Mr.Sonne Gowda N, S/o Mr.Narayanappa,** prop.Sri Ganesh Traders, C.B Pura Road, Vijayapura Devanahalli Taluk - 562135, **(4) Mrs. Asha N, W/o Mr.Sonne Gowda N,** #116, Bijavara Village, Vijayapura, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural - 562135, to repay an aggregate amount mentioned in the notice being **₹ 1,04,47,792.56 [Rupees One Crore Four Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Two and Paisa Fifty Six Only] under PSOD A/c No.8097000600001201** along with future interest from 01.03.2020 within **60** days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers, the mortgagor and the Co-obligants/ guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers, the mortgagors and the Co-obligants/ guarantors and the public in general **that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties** described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules on this **05th day of August - 2020.**

The borrowers, the mortgagor and the Co-obligants/ guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Karnataka Bank Ltd., Vijayapura (Bengaluru) Branch** for an aggregate amount of **₹ 1,10,12,680.56 (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakhs Twelve Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty and Paisa Fifty Six Only)** under **PSOD A/c No.8097000600001201** along with future interest from **01.08.2020,** plus costs.

[The Borrower's/mortgagors attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.]

Description of the Immovable Properties

All that part and parcel of vacant sites bearing Municipal Khaneshmari No.1109/1/3658/3422/1/193/1, Old No.3422/193 measuring 4920 Sq.ft and Municipal Khaneshmari No.1109/3658/3422/193 measuring 4920 Sq.ft, thus totally measuring 9840 Sq.ft, situated at 1st Division, Ward No.1, Devanahalli- Vijayapura Road, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. Boundaries:

Property bearing Municipal Khaneshmari No.1109/1/3658/3422/1/193/1

East by: Vacant Site purchased from Eswarachar; **West by:** Property of Muniyappa's Children; **North by:** Government Oni; **South by:** Vijayapura Devanahalli Road.

Property bearing Municipal Khaneshmari No.1109/3658/3422/193

East by: Property belonged to Ramakrishnappa & others; **West by:** Property of N.Sonnegowda; **North by:** Caluve and property of Bachappa; **South by:** Vijayapura Devanahalli Road.

Place: Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk
Date: 05.08.2020

Sd/-
Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Karnataka Bank Ltd.,

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd. 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore- 560068

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	M/s Sai Automobiles Represented By Propreitor G Jayaprakash / -158 F Hospet Road Cantonment Bellary - 583103 / Sri G P Venkat Naidu/ Sri G P Lakshminarasamma - #89, 4th Cross, Defence Colony, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore Bangalore – 560092 010251001602	PROPERTY 1 : All that piece & parcel of residential vacant site bearing CMC Assessment no. 49958A/49857B, T.S.No.144/1, 144/2A & 144/2B-384-385, in between this R.S. No. 636 A Part, Survey Sketch T.S. No. 144/A/2, Cantonment ward No. XXIB, Block No.14, CTS Ward No.22, Bellary, Bellary District admeasuring East to West :33 ft., North to South : 125 ft., & bounded as follows : on the East by : Open Plot of Sri. P. Narayanaswamy now purchased by the vendee on this day West by : Plot owned by Sri. S. Raghavendra North by : 20 ft., Road South by : 5Ft., Road PROPERTY 2 : All that piece & parcel of residential vacant site bearing CMC Assessment No. 49872/C, T.S.No. 144/1, 144/2A & 144/2B-384-385, in between this R.S. No. 636 A Part,as per present by Sketch T.S.No.144/1A3,within the reserve jurisdiction of CTS ward No.23, Block No.14,Cantonment ward No.XXIB, Bellary, Bellary District admeasuring East to West : 32 ft., North to South : 125 ft., & bounded as follows : on the East by : Open Plot of Smt. Shymala Devi. West by : Open Plot of Sri. Purushotham now purchased by the vendee on this day. North by : 20 ft., Road South by : 5Ft., Road PROPERTY 3 : All that piece & parcel of residential vacant site bearing assessment no. 49872/A, Block14, T.S.No.144/1A1, in City Municipal XXVB Ward (Old Ward XXII), Hospet Road, Tahsildar Compound, Contonment, Bellart, Bellary District admeasuring East to West :32 ft., North to South : 125 ft., & Bounded as follows : on the East by : T.S. No. 144/1A2 West by : T.S. No.144/1B North by : T.S. No.144/2A1 South by : T.S. No.145 PROPERTY 4 SCHEDULE Premises situated within the Registration & Sub-Registration District of Bellary within the city Limits of Bellary, Contonment (North), Thahasildhar Compound, C.M.C.Ward No.25, C.T.S. Ward No. 22, Block No.14, T.S. NO. 144/2A/12, Door No. 159/A to D, City Municipal Assessment No.40150/49857. The Building is collapsed at present open site MEASURING Eastern Side North- South : 19 Feet Western Side North-South : 32 Feet Northern Side East -West : 25' N- S : 13' E- W : 10 feet Souther Side East -West : 36 Feet TOTAL AREA 1022 SQ. FEET BOUNDED BY : East : T.S. NO.144/A1 West : ROAD North : T.S. NO.144/2A/18 & T.S. NO.144/2A South : T.S. NO.144/1B/ Date of possession- 06.08.2020	10.02.2020 Rs. 25548811.75/-	Bellary
2.	M/s. Adithi Automotives Pvt Ltd Represented By Directors G Jayaprakash & G Manoja /- Taics Compound, Opp Tsp Dam Road Opp Tsp Ltd Hospet -583201 /sri G P Venkat Naidu/ Sri G P Lakshminarasamma - #89, 4th Cross, Defence Colony, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore - Mortgagor Bangalore 560092 / 010251005565	PROPERTY 1 : All that piece & parcel of residential vacant site bearing CMC Assessment no. 49958A/49857B, T.S. No.144/1, 144/2A & 144/2B-384-385, in between this R.S. No.636 A Part, Survey Sketch T.S.No.144/A/2,Cantonment ward No. XXIB, Block No.14, CTS Ward No.22, Bellary, Bellary District admeasuring East to West : 33 ft., North to South : 125 ft., & bounded as follows : on the East by : Open Plot of Sri.P.Narayanaswamy now purchased by the vendee on this day West by : Plot owned by Sri. S. Raghavendra North by : 20 ft., Road South by : 5Ft., Road PROPERTY 2: All that piece & parcel of residential vacant site bearing CMC Assessment No.49872/C,T.S.No.144/1, 144/2A & 144/2B-384-385, in between this R.S. No. 636 A Part, as per present by Sketch T.S.No.144/1A3, within the reserve jurisdiction of CTS ward No.23, Block No.14, Cantonment ward No. XXIB, Bellary, Bellary District admeasuring East to West :32 ft., North to South : 125 ft., & bounded as follows : on the East by : Open Plot of Smt.Shymala Devi. West by : Open Plot of Sri. Purushotham now purchased by the vendee on this day. North by : 20 ft., Road South by : 5Ft., Road PROPERTY 3 : All that piece and ward of the T.S. No.144/1A4, Decided No.49872/B,Block No.CIS Ward No.22, Ma.Na.Pa.ward No.23, CMC ward No.25, measuring eastr to West 32 feet, and Nolrth to South 125 feet, totally measuring 4000 Sq.ft., situated at Tahsildar Compound, Contonment North, Bellary-Bombay-madras Trunk Road, Bellary Sub-Division, Bangalore Division, and bounded on : EAST BY : T.S. No. 144/2A/A; WEST BY : T.S. No.144/1A3; NORTH BY : 20 Feet Road, T.S. No. 144/2A1; SOUTH BY : T.S. No.145; PROPERTY 4 : All that piece & parcel of residential vacant site bearing assessment no.49872/A,Block14, T.S. No.144/1A1, in City Municipal XXVB Ward (old Ward XXII),Hospet Road, tahsildar Compound, contonment, Bellart, Bellary District admeasuring East to West :32 ft., North to South : 125 ft., & bounded as follows : on the East by : T.S.No.144/1A2 West by : T.S. No.144/1B North by : T.S. No.144/2A1 South by : T.S. No.145 PROPERTY 5 : SCHEDULE Premises situated within the Registration & Sub-Registration District of Bellary within the city Limits of Bellary, Contonment (North), Thahasildhar Compound, C.M.C.Ward No.25, C.T.S.Ward No.22, Block No.14, T.S. NO.144/2A/12, Door No. 159/A to D, City Municipal Assessment No. 40150/49857. The Building is collapsed at present open site MEASURING Eastern Side North-South : 19 Feet Western Side North-South : 32 Feet Northern Side East - West : 25' N- S : 13' E- W : 10 feet Souther Side East -West : 36 Feet TOTAL AREA 1022 SQ.FEET BOUNDED BY : East : T.S. NO.144/A1 West : ROAD North : T.S. NO. 144/2A/18 & T.S. NO. 144/2A South : T.S. NO.144/1B / Date of possession- 06.08.2020	10.02.2020 Rs. 81831798.73/-	Hospet

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 11-08-2020
Place: Bangalore

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

The NIA court in Kochi on Monday dismissed the bail petition of Swapna Suresh, the second accused in the smuggling of gold via diplomatic cargo, claiming that a deeper probe is needed even though a terror angle has not yet been established in the case

Ex-ISRO chief says life of the rover is over

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Even as there is wide-spread debate on whether rover Pragyaan is still active, Dr K Radhakrishnan, former chairman of the Space Commission and ISRO, does not seem to be too optimistic.

"To my understanding, the life of the rover was to be 14 earth days based on the power supply and thermal management systems used. And that period is over," he said during an address to space enthusiasts at a conference on the 'Indian Space Programme in the New Space Age' on Sunday.

He was responding to a query in the wake of Chennai-based techie Shanmuga Subramanian's observations that Pragyaan "had rolled out a few metres from the skeleton Vikram lander whose payloads got disintegrated due to rough landing".

Shanmuga gained credibility after his finding of the Vikram's debris on the lunar surface was confirmed by NASA. Following this, debates raged on the possibility of the techie's observation being correct or not. And now, whether the rover could be still alive.

Plane crash: Probe fails to find rubber deposits

It was earlier touted as primary reason for Kozhikode tragedy

DHINESH KALLUNGAL @T'Puram

TWO days after the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) launched an investigation into the plane crash at Calicut International Airport, which claimed 18 lives on Friday night, fresh evidence that emerged during inspection countered the claims of aquaplaning and rubber deposits on the runway. Soon after the accident, various quarters including sources from the airline pointed out the excessive rubber deposits on the wet runway as the primary reason for the aircraft overshooting the strip.

Rubber deposits in the touch-down zone of the runway used to be cleared at regular intervals as these are considered one of the primary causes of reduction of friction when runways are wet. But when an aircraft skids off the runway due to excessive rubber deposits in the touch-down zone, it would leave deep black marks on the surface. The investigation officials who checked the runway couldn't find any rubber traction marks, said a source.

Second, hydroplaning, a condition in which the tyres are lifted off the surface by the action of the fluid trapped between wheels of the aircraft and runway surface, would leave a brown mark on the surface due to the excessive heat generated in the process. During investigation, the officials couldn't find any black and brown marks on the runway. The friction characteristic of the runway at the airport is within the accepted level. The friction coefficient was 0.05 on the runway before the accident, said sources.

Normally, the airport handles around 45 departures and arrivals per day, while after evacuation flight services began, the airport has been handling, on average, 10 aircraft per day, much below the normal traffic. It shows that the chances for accumulating excessive deposits on the runway are very low compared with normal traffic period.

The AAIB will soon submit its preliminary probe report.

ONE AMONG INJURED TESTS COVID POSITIVE

Kozhikode: Another passenger, who had been on board the ill-fated Air India Express flight from Dubai which crashed at the Kozhikode airport, has tested positive for Covid-19. The patient from Kozhikode rural is recuperating in a private hospital here where he was admitted to for injuries sustained in the mishap. Among the deceased passengers, Malappuram Valanchery native Sudheer Variyath had turned positive earlier. His mortal remains were cremated at the Mavoor Road crematorium here on Saturday.

FLOOD FURY

A woman clears water from her boat after her house was submerged in floodwaters following heavy rain at Alleppey in Kerala

50 fake agencies may sour your foreign job dream

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE office of the Protector of Emigrants (PoE) in Bengaluru has written to all the district police chiefs in Karnataka alerting them about 50 fake foreign recruitment agents/agencies, which are trapping gullible people wishing to go overseas for employment. There are 16 registered foreign employment agencies in Karnataka, the names of which can be found at the emigrate.gov.in.

Of the 50 illegal agents/agencies, 17 operate in Mangaluru, 11 in Bengaluru, four in Belagavi, three in Shivamogga, two in Hassan, one each in Dharwad, Udupi, Davangere and Haveri districts. Besides these, nine other illegal foreign recruitment agents/agencies are spread across the State. "There could be many more such fake foreign recruiting entities in the State, which are yet to be unearthed," said an official source.

According to sources, the PoE in the letter dated August 6 has stated that these illegal individuals/agencies keep the resumes of prospective migrants from their region and seek relevant information about overseas job requirements from the registered foreign recruitment agencies and employers through open source – social media platforms.

It said these illegal headhunters work as unauthorised "sub agents" and charge ₹5,000 per candidate from the registered agencies and the applicant. In case, the requirements are raised by a foreign employer, the amount of money received from them by these individuals/agencies is not known. Money is paid in cash or online in the name of the third party.

Under the Emigration Act, 1983, it is mandatory for an individual or organisation to have a valid registration certificate to function as an agent for overseas recruitments. The violators are liable to be charged under Section 10 and 24 (i) (g) of the Act in addition to several relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Income Tax and the Passport Acts. Under the Emigration Act, a registered agent can charge up to ₹30,000 per candidate. But it has come to the notice of the PoE that these illegal entities are charging double the amount from the applicants.

There could be many more such fake foreign recruiting entities in Karnataka, which are yet to be unearthed

Official

3 HELD IN SWARNA PALACE TRAGEDY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Vijayawada

A day after a fire at Swarna Palace hotel claimed the lives of 10 Covid-19 victims, the Vijayawada police on Monday arrested three management staff of Ramesh Hospitals, which was using the hotel as a Covid Care Centre, holding them responsible for the deaths and lapses in maintaining safety standards.

The three arrested are chief operating officer (COO) Dr Kodali Rajagopala Rao, general manager Kurapathi Sudarshan and Covid Care Centre coordinating manager Pallabothu Venkatesh.

Following the mishap, the police registered cases under Sections 304 (II) and 308 R/W 34 of the IPC against the managements of the hospital and the hotel.

Vijayawada City ACP-South Zone N Surya Chandra Rao said the COO of Ramesh Hospital played a major role in taking the hotel on lease and failed to check the fire safety mechanism. He said the general manager and coordinating manager were responsible for the safety of patients.

"It is their duty to check and put in place fire safety mechanisms as they are charging lakhs of rupees from patients," said Surya Chandra Rao.

Police and Fire department officials inspect Swarna Palace in Vijayawada on Monday

Meanwhile, the police are conducting simultaneous raids on all hotels rented by Ramesh Hospitals in the city, and are keeping a tab on the activities of other hospitals and hotels. Searches were also carried out at the residence of Swarna Palace owner Mutthavarapu Srinivas Rao, and hard disks and copies of the agreement pertaining to the lease of the hotels to use them as Covid Care Centres were reportedly seized.

No shortage of fertiliser: Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WARNING miscreants of action, Agriculture Minister BC Patil said overpricing and refusing to supply urea will not be tolerated. In an official release, the minister said the government is keeping track of such cases, and that legal action will be initiated against those found flouting rules. He said there is no shortage of fertilizer for farmers in the state, and appealed to them to not fall for any such rumours. Patil said that this year, the sowing percentage has increased, with more than 57.12 lakh hectares of land being used for the purpose. On average, there has been a 14 per cent increase in sowing this year compared to the last five years.

Regarding urea supply, the minister said there was a delay in the shipment to the Mangaluru port last month. This month, there is a demand for 1.77 lakh ton of urea, and 49,749 tons has been distributed so far.

CM B S Yediyurappa walks out of Manipal Hospital on Monday | EXPRESS

BSY to remain in quarantine, will skip videocon with PM

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa will not be participating in the video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, and has instead asked his cabinet colleagues, DyCM Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, Revenue Minister R Ashoka, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar to take part. The conference, to be held at 11 am, is likely to discuss the Covid-19 situation.

Bommai, who is scheduled to attend a function in Udupi, may not participate in the video conference.

Sources said that Yediyurappa will participate in the flag-hoisting on August 15, and prior to it, will remain in home quarantine and isolated for four days, as advised.

When Yediyurappa stepped out of the hospital at 4.30 pm Monday, the media was unaware and not informed for fear that this would lead to a crowd in hospital.

Chairman of Manipal Hospitals Dr Sudarshan Ballal, wearing a PPE kit, saw off the Chief Minister with a bouquet.

The entire VVIP 11th floor was taken by CM Yediyurappa, his daughter Padmavathi, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah and his son Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah for the past eight days. When the CM was first admitted on Sunday, he had stayed on the fifth floor.

As the convoy of official cars streamed out, the 11th floor wore a deserted look, except for Siddaramaiah in his suite and his security detail.

The hospital staff recounted the CM's stay in hospital, and how he enjoyed his simple vegetarian meals. His only demand was for kiwi, and the hospital gladly obliged with a bowl of the fruit. The CM had ragi porridge and meals of dal, chapati, cut vegetable salad and so on.

The hospital staff was strictly told that selfies with the CM and hounding for autographs was banned.

Waiting to resume work soon, says CM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

YEDIYURAPPA tested positive for Covid on August 2 and was shifted to the hospital immediately. While the chief minister was said to have a very mild cough initially, he largely remained asymptomatic throughout his stay at the hospital.

"Thank you everyone for your wishes and prayers. I have been discharged from the hospital and will be in self-quarantine. Deeply grateful for your affection and support. I look forward to getting back to the routine very soon," Yediyurappa tweeted on Monday evening. He added that self-confidence and medical help was all that was needed to defeat the virus. Manipal Hospital Chairman Dr Sudarshan Ballal saw off the chief minister from the hospital and presented him a bouquet.

Yediyurappa's daughter Padmavati too walked out of the hospital with her father. The CM's discharge came hours after he deputed two of his ministers R Ashoka and Basavaraj Bommai to participate in a video-conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the flood situation in the state.

Thank you everyone for your wishes and prayers. I have been discharged from the hospital and will be in self-quarantine. Deeply grateful for your affection and support. I look forward to getting back to the routine very soon

B S Yediyurappa, chief minister

K'taka excise officials will tour states to study online liquor sales

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka excise department is planning to send its officials to various states to study the feasibility of online liquor sale, and is also check the pros and cons.

Earlier, the Congress-JDS alliance government had plans to introduce online delivery of liquor, but dropped the proposal after it ran into opposition. But now the government seems inclined to introduce online sales to avoid crowding at liquor outlets, with a sharp spike in Covid-19 positive cases.

Even while there is resistance from the Opposition, Excise Minister H Nagesh seems to be keen on implementing online sale of liquor. He told The New Indian Express that the government is checking all possibilities to introduce online liquor sale. "Many states, including Kerala, Maharashtra and Jharkhand have started online sales. We will send our officials to study the pros and cons. We want to check the success rates in those states," he said.

A senior excise official, on condition of anonymity, said this year's tax target is Rs 22,700 crore. Since the lockdown was imposed through April and part of May, the department is lagging on its target. Online sales might help them reach this financial year's target, he added.

Department data shows that the quantity of liquor sale has come down. One of the reasons is that pubs and restaurants are not allowed to serve liquor, as per home ministry guidelines. Since the first week of May till July-end, 235.46 lakh carton boxes were sold as against 191.16 lakh carton boxes in 2019, in the same duration.

Starting April 1, the State government increased additional excise duty (AED) on liquor sale, giving a boost to revenue. Sales in three months touched Rs 7117.42 crore as against Rs 6825.52 crore last year, at least Rs 291 crore more than last year.

SWR proposes 10 pairs of long-distance trains

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

TO ensure better rail connectivity from Karnataka to different parts of the country, South Western Railway Zone has sent a proposal to the Railway Board to run ten pairs of long-distance special trains from different districts in the State. The green signal for the proposal, sent a few weeks ago, is still pending with the Railway Ministry.

According to reliable railway sources, these are the destinations proposed by it to run trains both in the onward and return directions from different stations in Bengaluru Division: Bengaluru Cantonment and Guwahati, Yesvantpur and Howrah, KSR (Bengaluru City) and Solapur, KSR and Mangaluru and Yesvantpur and Karwar.

From other stations across Karnataka, these routes have been proposed for running of trains both ways: Hubballi and Mysuru, Hubballi and Secunderabad, Hubballi and Varanasi, Hubballi and LTT Mumbai as well as Vasco da Gama and Howrah, they said.

However, it does not appear as if the routes would get the required green signal in the near future. "We sent the proposals four weeks ago and are still awaiting a response," a top official said. "It is not only us, different zones in the country have been told to send across destinations they would like to start trains on a priority basis. All our proposals are pending. We sent them to the Railway Board and it has to be cleared by the Railway Ministry," he added.

Meanwhile, as on date, four pairs of intra-state trains within Karnataka and five pairs of inter-state trains are operated regularly. The intra-state trains run daily, and connect KSR with Mysuru, KSR with Hubballi (Jan Shatabdi), KSR with Belagavi and Yesvantpur with Shivamogga (Jan Shatabdi).

The long distance trains presently being operated are the Rajdhani Special between KSR and New Delhi, Udyan Special between KSR and Mumbai, KSR and Danapur (Bihar) Special, Yesvantpur and Howrah Special as well as Yesvantpur and Hazrat Nizamuddin Special.

EXPRESS READ

Covid ensures low-key Sabari pilgrimage

T'Puram: The Sabarimala pilgrimage, one of the most popular religious journeys in south India, could be a low-key affair this year due to Covid-19, as the state decided to hold the annual ritual as per the pandemic protocol. The number of devotees allowed under take the pilgrimage will be restricted.

1.2K fresh cases, TS crosses 80-mark

Hyderabad: Telangana crossed the 80K-mark tally with 1,256 new Covid cases getting reported on Monday. With this the State's tally reached 80,751 cases. The reported deaths at this stage are 637, with 10 new deaths in last 24 hours. The active cases at this stage of the pandemic for the State are 22,258.

EDITORIAL

"I wake up every morning and the first thing I do is I meditate. It helps me get a good jump-start to the day. Not opening my phone, not getting too overwhelmed ...

Bianca Andreescu

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NEP AND IMPROVING EDUCATION QUALITY IN TRIBAL AREAS

The focus on mother tongue in the National Education Policy 2020 has been widely discussed and welcomed too. Home language/mother tongue or the local language will remain the medium of instruction for students up to Grade 5 wherever possible, preferably beyond it till Grade 8 and even going forward, and the policy says that it may continue to be taught as a language after that too. While the three-language formula and the place of English as a medium of instruction continue to be debated, the NEP does lend primacy to education in tribal-dominated areas of the country. Every year, millions of very young students from the indigenous populations are introduced to academics but through a system and curriculum that is almost alien as they do not factor in, or at least make light of their need for, their native language. According to the mother tongue data provided by the Language Census 2011, there are at least 121 languages in India of which 22 are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution while 99 are not. The NEP rightly notes that young children grasp nontrivial concepts more quickly in their home language.

It is not as if mother tongue-based education is being discussed for the first time. In 2013, the Women and Child Development Ministry had formulated the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy under which a curriculum framework was adopted so that the mother tongue or local language will be the part of interaction for children. Several states with a substantial tribal population have had multilingual education programmes based on mother tongue for the primary classes. But there still exists a gulf because availability of tribal language teachers, training and curriculum development have not been dealt with. According to a World Bank assessment, at least 55% of Indian children are not proficient in reading. That India must remain firm in its focus on improving the quality of education in its tribal heartlands needs no emphasis. The NEP 2020 brings more focus to early childhood education but both the Centre and states must chart out the course through strong intent backed by public investment.

DON'T FORGET DOMESTIC CRICKET IN IPL DRIVE

It takes a great deal of organisational skill to conduct an event like the Indian Premier League (IPL) in another country. In the 13-year history of the competition, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is going to do this for the third time. Given that the money generated from the IPL sustains the cricket ecosystem in India and helps it flourish, the BCCI does its best to stage the tournament. Even in the time of pandemic, officials headed by president Sourav Ganguly are making every effort to conduct the event successfully, taking preventive measures like putting up the eight teams in different hotels in the UAE and creating a huge bio-bubble.

If these efforts are to be commended, the BCCI will also be expected to pay adequate attention to the cricket played in the country. Inter-state tournaments for men and women in different age groups constitute the base of Indian cricket, on which the stars thrive. With nearly 20 annual tournaments and over 2,000 matches, this is by far the busiest domestic cricket calendar in the world. Valid criticism of administrative high-handedness notwithstanding, board officials deserve credit for providing quality infrastructure for these matches. Keeping this in mind, it becomes imperative for them to protect the system in times of uncertainty.

There are talks that because a few months of cricket will be lost, the BCCI will reduce the number of domestic tournaments this season. National one-dayers for men, T20s for women and a few junior tournaments are among these. While a shortened calendar will have room for fewer events, the BCCI has to make sure due attention is paid to them. Scrapping junior events is a bad idea because that is the supply line. Also, it reflects badly on the BCCI if it goes all out to have the IPL and turns a blind eye to the youngsters. They say the IPL is important because it keeps everything else going. To stay true to that, Ganguly and Co must see to it that events at the grassroots are not neglected in this drive to maximise profit from the IPL.

Some sports fixtures have started getting underway. While this is a relief, green shoots emerging over the past month do not mean everything is hunky dory

SPORTS IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

AYAZ MEMON

Mumbai-based journalist writing on sports, society and other matters

AMIT BANDRE

Sports has made a stuttering resumption in the Covid-hit world. From March-end till the first week of June, there was no sporting action anywhere as virtually the entire planet was in lockdown. As fears mounted that 2020 would be a total write-off, some action thankfully commenced, even if limpingly.

In the past two months, Premier League and La Liga, the major football tournaments, have restarted, the NBA season has recommenced, and in cricket, England opened its doors to the West Indies and Pakistan for Test and limited overs series. This list is not exhaustive and there are also many events still in limbo.

From India's point of view, the biggest development in the past week or so has been that the Indian Premier League will finally be played, albeit away from home. This is a huge relief for the BCCI, players and fans, but also other cricket boards that are indirect beneficiaries of this lucrative tournament.

The financial consequences of scrapping the IPL would have been heavy. Annual revenues from the league are touted to be in the region of ₹4,000 crore. Even if this is discounted by 25% with Covid having depressed revenue streams substantially, the amount remains huge—in fact without comparison in cricket. Obviously, the BCCI was eager (and anxious) that the IPL be played. A delayed decision by the ICC to scrap the T20 World Championship—scheduled in Australia in October-November—opened up a window of opportunity for the tournament in the nick of time.

The ICC and BCCI have not been on the best of terms for the past few years, which at least partially explains the delay by the governing body in taking a call on the IPL. However, with Cricket Australia reeling from massive financial losses and revenue projections looking grim, it was unwilling to host the T20 WC, leaving the ICC without much choice.

Ideally, the BCCI, the Indian government and all stakeholders in the league would have liked the IPL to be played in India. But with the Covid threat showing no signs of abating and with time running out swiftly, the tournament had to necessarily be moved elsewhere. This is not without precedent. In 2009, the IPL moved lock, stock and barrel to South Africa when the general elections were being held in India. During the 2014 election, the first half of the tournament was played in the UAE, moving back to India for the second half. The UAE has been picked as the venue this time too.

These sports fixtures getting underway is a big relief in a year that has otherwise been devastated by Covid. The Tokyo Olympics and the T20 World Championship are obviously major casualties. However, 'green shoots' emerging over the past month do not mean everything's hunky dory.

Trepidations about Covid remain and could easily disrupt a tournament. This could stem from no more than personal apprehension by athletes. For instance, Rafael Nadal, reigning US Open champion, unexpectedly pulled out of the event that starts on August 31.

> Trepidations about Covid remain and could easily disrupt tournaments. This could stem from no more than personal apprehension by athletes. For instance, Rafael Nadal, reigning US Open champion, unexpectedly pulled out of the event that starts on August 31

Nadal said "things don't look normal" or words to the effect. With Roger Federer also missing because of injury, the US Open will be bereft of its two biggest draw-cards. This could well be replicated in other events and sports. There is no guarantee that all overseas players will be agreeable to participating in the IPL. Several would be waiting and watching to see how the Covid threat unravels.

While fear is normal in these extraordinary circumstances, and no blame can be assigned to the players, there is also foolhardiness to guard against. This was evident in tennis World No.1 Novak Djokovic's misadventure with the Adria Tour a couple of months ago. Djokovic, who doesn't believe in conventional medicine pedagogy, scoffed at those who cautioned him against organising the tour even if the intentions were noble. He had to pay a heavy price. Four players participating in the Adria Tour—including Djokovic himself—tested positive, reportedly because of loose precautionary measures adopted by the players who mixed freely with fans and also joined after-play parties, hugging and backslapping people. The belief that elite, superfit athletes will not be susceptible to Covid was found disastrously misplaced. The Adria Tour had to be abandoned in the first leg itself, leaving Djokovic with egg on his face instead of accolades for his noble intention to raise money for charity.

Finally to the case of Joffra Archer. England's new pace sensation broke the biosecure bubble after the first Test against the West Indies by driving off to his house, instead of going directly to the city where the next match was to be played like his teammates. Archer did not contract an infection, but was fined 15,000 pounds and had to miss the next Test as he had to compulsorily spend time in isolation. There was nothing untoward resulting from Archer's misdemeanour, but who can guarantee against this in the future? Imagine something like this happening in the IPL. It could bring down the tournament!

The clear message that comes through is of sensible and sober understanding of the Covid threat and adhering to the laid-down standard operating procedures by all those involved in sports. You treat this virus cavalierly at your own peril.

WHY CORPORATISATION OF ORDNANCE BOARD IS A MUST

LT GEN P R SHANKAR (RETD.)

Former Director General of Artillery. Now professor in the Aerospace Dept., IIT-M

On 16 May 2020, the government announced the decision to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) to improve its autonomy, accountability and efficiency. It evoked an overwhelming response from the Armed Forces, which felt the step was overdue but suboptimal. Almost everyone wanted the OFB to be privatised on a PPP model. Simultaneously, there were discordant notes from within the OFB. The feedback indicated that the management and unions were both against the corporatisation decision. Thereafter, the MoD started the process of hiring a consultant to prepare a corporatisation roadmap. Unions opposed the move and have now given a notice to go on strike from 12 October 2020. These events are happening when the Sino-Indian situation is tense with a likelihood of conflict escalation.

There is absolute clarity that the OFB is beset with major problems, the foremost being poor quality, high cost, lack of accountability, inordinate delays and a very poor work culture. The Armed Forces have never been satisfied with the output of the OFB. Very specifically, the ammunition produced by it is often unreliable, unsafe and has lower-than-specified shelf lives. As a result, huge quantities of ammunition are destroyed or rendered non-operational. It adversely affects operational readiness. National security is jeopardised. This situation is unacceptable and must be arrested. There is no doubt that reforms are necessary. Past government committees even recommended full privatisation and breaking up of the OFB. Corporatisation is the minimum reform.

It is unacceptable that OFB unions are preparing to strike when the nation is almost at war. This is the time when they should be standing behind the Forces and ensuring that frontline soldiers have enough clothing, ammunition, weapons, guns and missiles to fight adversaries. The government should ban such strikes at this time. Are the workers being instigated by party politics or forces inimical to the nation? Is there a China hand behind the strike? There is obviously more to it than meets the eye. The worker unions should reflect—can the Armed Forces go on strike due to delayed supply of substandard ammunition and other warlike stores?

The OFB has not improved despite huge efforts in the past at internal reform. If this situation continues, the Armed Forces will refuse to use substandard OFB products. If corporatisation is resisted, the government may rely on the private sector to meet its needs. There is no choice. The management and workers of the OFB need to see corporatisation in the correct perspective. Corporatisation does not mean their jobs are being taken away or their livelihood is at stake. The idea is to improve efficiency and the image of the OFB that is at rock bottom.

There is a requirement for dialogue with the OFB as a whole. They should be made to understand the intent and necessity of corporatisation. It means turning the hidden potential and strengths of the OFB into a competitive profit system through better work culture like other DPSUs. It will actually benefit everyone in the long run. If the OFB must export weapons, there is definitely a requirement to improve its image internationally. That is feasible only through reforms. There are, however, some issues involved. The workers need to be reassured and their fears allayed. Their jobs will not be lost. Reforms will only lead to better and enhanced capacities and result in an Atmanirbhar Bharat and more jobs. The second issue is to deal with the management that consists largely of the IOFS cadre. These officers might not fit into a corporate entity. Hence some options of lateral entry into other government departments have to be thought of while fresh blood is brought in.

> The Ordnance Factory Board is a strategic asset with eroded roots ... State-owned enterprises in China used to be called their 'Rust Buckets' till the 90s. After reforms, they are now the engines powering China to superpower status. It is time the OFB sheds its rust bucket image and becomes India's growth engine

Appointment of a consultant to recommend the corporatisation roadmap must be done with care. Foreign ones are best avoided. The OFB is a huge strategic asset. It has tremendous strengths that should be kept under wraps. Our workers are experienced. Our future plans should be safeguarded. Its transformation will take time. It should be done deliberately, in phases, with care. Reform should be as per our conditions, culture and practices. The expertise to reform exists indigenously. Further, there is considerable pre-corporatisation groundwork required. Certain structural changes should be carried out even before the consultant comes into the scene. The Board can be given financial powers equivalent to other DPSUs. The OFB can start functioning under clearly visible and foreseen verticals. The financial advisory & audit and the quality assurance systems can change. An implementation committee should be appointed to oversee the transformation on a time-bound basis. People who wrote previous reports on reforming the OFB are still in circulation. They should steer and execute what they had recommended! All stakeholders must be part of the reform. Reluctance of workers seems to be a fear of the unknown. A major problem of the OFB is the disconnect and insensitivity to users. A greater connect between the Services and the OFB must commence. There is a strong case for the DDP (MoD) to be a bespoke organisation. Mere reform of the OFB alone won't do. The MoD must also undergo a concomitant reform.

The OFB is a national strategic asset with eroded roots. It needs a rebuild. If the rebuilding is done effectively, India will benefit immensely. To quote an equivalent, state-owned enterprises in China used to be called their 'Rust Buckets' till the 90s. After reforms, they are now the engines powering China to superpower status. It is time the OFB sheds its rust bucket image and becomes India's growth engine.

(The author has guided important projects like the Dhanush 155mm gun system, streamlining of BMCS plant, making up artillery ammunition shortfalls, manufacture of Pinaka rocket systems and other new initiatives of the OFB)

(pravishankar3@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Deaths heart-rending

News about the fire at a private Covid-19 care centre in Vijayawada that took the lives of at least 10 patients and injured 20 more is heart-wrenching. The fire, triggered by a short circuit, broke out in the wee hours of the morning when most patients were asleep. The authorities need to fix culpability and punish those responsible for this tragedy.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Boost to self reliance

The report about India banning the import of 101 defence items to boost self-reliance brings joy to every citizen. The Centre's decision to push for indigenous production of weapons from big guns to missiles will not only reduce our huge import bill, it will also boost the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission.

B Kailash Shankar, T'puram

Helping rural economy

The ₹1 lakh crore Agriculture Infrastructure Fund launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will go a long way in bolstering the rural economy in these times. It must be ensured that this reaches the beneficiaries without the usual bottlenecks and red-tapism involving the banking sector.

Dr George Jacob, Kochi

Return of Rama to Ayodhya

This is with reference to *Sri Rama: Back to Ayodhya* (Aug 10). Lord Ram, who has been living under a makeshift plastic sheet for decades, has now been assured a grand temple. As the author points out, nobody has waged war in Rama's name. The temple will fulfil the dreams of believers after nearly 500 years of prayers.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Improve teaching standards

This is with reference to *Education policy and the learning divide* (Aug 10). The editorial has raised pertinent questions about whether the NEP can bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. Many private institutions are owned by politicians. To set right the imbalance between public and private schools, the government must raise the standards of teaching.

S Arjun Prasanna, Bengaluru

Implementing NEP

Middle class families find it very difficult to educate their children in private schools with astronomical fees. If government schools are staffed with competent teachers, this problem could be solved. The NEP is a good policy, but implementing it will be a challenge.

M B Balasubramanyam, Bengaluru

Every tragedy is avoidable

This is with reference to *Authorities must pay attention to air safety* (Aug 10). It is alarming to hear that a number of airports in India have safety issues that are brazenly ignored by the authorities. With sophisticated technology and available funds, every tragedy is avoidable. The authorities must take action.

Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Apathy of officials

The apathy of officials in rectifying the defects in our airports is deplorable. Further, the report that the US and Netherlands also have tabletop airports that have seen successful landings in worse weather conditions than was prevalent in the Kozhikode airport that night should be studied in detail.

Cicily Thomas, Muvattupuzha

Double standards in Kerala

It is sad to note the double standards adopted by the Kerala government in fixing the ex gratia compensation to the relatives of the deceased in the disasters in Munnar and the Kozhikode airport. Equal compensation must be awarded to all victims of both the tragedies.

P Jayaprakash, Ottapalam

Great news for the isles

It is wonderful that the PM inaugurated the first submarine optical fibre cable connecting Chennai and the Andaman & Nicobar islands. This is great news for the economy of the islands. This will also enhance their internet bandwidth. One can say it is a gift to the people on the auspicious occasion of our upcoming Independence day.

Sachin Shrivastava, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Amit Shah @AmitShah
The submarine OFC will provide high-speed telecom and broadband facilities in Andaman & Nicobar at par with metro cities.

Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
Secular parties cannot take anti-Muslim positions on one hand & expect our undying loyalty to them on the other.

Capt.Amarinder Singh @capt_amarinder
I would like to thank Prime Minister @narendramodi Ji for acceding to our request to set up a National Institute of Virology in Punjab.

Sachin Pilot met Rahul Gandhi in Delhi on Monday, say sources | FILE

Gehlot wins, but at what price?

Rajasthan CM had called Pilot a 'nikamma', 'nakaara', yet Cong leader returns to party

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE return of Sachin Pilot to the Congress fold without any major concessions to him marks a huge victory for CM Ashok Gehlot.

The party has gone as far as setting up a committee that will look into Pilot's grievances. The message is clear: the Gehlot government is safe for now. Gehlot has also succeeded in foiling BJP's plans to topple his government and in its mission to damage the Congress at the national level soon after the MP shocker.

> **Gehlot is the party chief and I am with the government. My grievances were related to the development in my area, which have been resolved.**
>
> Bhanwarlal Sharma

Pilot has lost his twin key posts in the state; that of being the PCC chief and deputy CM, in his fight that raged almost a month. Sources say there will be clarity soon over what has been worked out. But the big questions are: why did Pilot relent after a month-long revolt? Has he had to compromise his stature or has he sealed some secret deal with the party leadership? Gehlot had called him 'nikamma' (inefficient) and 'nakaara' (useless).

One of the reasons for Pilot's climb-down appears to be the bitter truth of the number of MLAs supporting him. In contrast, the pro-Gehlot MLAs stood firm even as they remained corralled in Jaipur and Jaisalmer hotels for nearly a month. The final straw was former BJP CM Vasundhara Raje's tough posturing with the party leadership. The BJP, too, was forced to herd its MLAs in Gujarat, forcing a possible rethink in Pilot about the futility of his ambition to bring down the Gehlot the government.

Another question is whether Pilot would be rehabilitated. Most observers discount such a possibility, but say a face-saver involving his shifting to Delhi could be offered wherein he might get a party position.

The most significant aspect of the Pilot climb-down was the unabashed U-turn of his key strategist, Bhanwarlal Sharma, who had camped in Manesar for a month.

Hindi doesn't pose a threat, English does: Sinha

THE new National Education Policy (NEP) does not impose Hindi but only proposes to teach the children in their mother tongue, said BJP Rajya Sabha MP ***Rakesh Sinha*** *in a conversation with* ***Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, The New Indian Express,*** *and author and senior journalist* ***Kaveree Bamzai*** *on TNIE's Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter.*

Sinha was debating the pros and cons of the NEP with the Congress leader **MM Pallam Raju** and DMK's Rajya Sabha MP **TKS Elangovan**.

Sinha said Hindi does not pose a threat of imposition on any Indian language, rather the real threat is from English. "No Indian language is threatened by Hindi and neither is Hindi threatened by them. But they are all threatened by the domination of English. We are not against English — it is a very important means of communication but that does not mean you will impose it right from a child's birth. Education in the mother tongue is considered most scientific," he said.

Explaining why Tamil Nadu does not find the three-language set up very exciting, Elangovan said: "In 2006, we faced this problem. Kalaignar (M Karunanidhi) was the CM and he worked out a method — education will be in Tamil, but children with different mother tongues will also learn that language in the school. Everyone accepted that. We are not against any single language. We do not want one language to be imposed on us which is different from learning a language or studying in a language," he said.

Raju said English cannot be ignored as it has become the global language and the language of opportunity. "There should not be any rigidity when it comes to language. If you see the government schools across the country, the teachers are teaching in the local language because they don't have teachers who know English. The learning goes on. In private schools, the medium of instruction is English, and there is a lot of interest among parents to put their children in private schools and English medium schools because they see shortcomings in government schools," the former Union minister said.

"I think we should address this imbalance and not necessarily impose the mother tongue in private schools. I am not undermining our mother tongue but I think we need to look at the languages of opportunity," he added.

Sinha, however, said the NEP is not only progressive but also takes care of employment opportunities. "We have to change the midset — job means self-reliance. In Gujarat, people go for self-employment after their education is complete. But on the contrary, in Bihar, people go for government jobs. The UPSC is the finest job for them. That needs to change," said Sinha.

Commenting on the NEP's proposal to let the top 100 global universities to set up base in India, Elangovan said: "We have opposed the idea of bringing in foreign universities even when it was proposed during the UPA 2 regime. Why should we bring in foreign universities when we have the skills."

One of the concerns that the critics of the policy raised were that the revamp of the syllabus might lead to its "saffronisation". On the issue, Raju said all stakeholders should be made a part of the process.

HCWs' quarantine period to be treated as 'on duty'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Monday clarified that quarantine period of doctors and healthcare workers (HCWs) will be treated as on duty and not on leave.

In an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, the Union Ministry of Health submitted that it had issued a directive in this context to all states on August 6 and clarified that quarantine period needs to be treated as on duty.

The step came in response to the top court's July 31 order, asking for clarification on the issue after an application filed by the United Resident Doctors Association (URDA) said several states were treating quarantine period as casual leave and deducting salaries, too.

A bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan had told the central government to respond to URDA's application, which also said that salaries of doctors were being deducted for their compulsory quarantine period.

A medic collects samples from a woman for Covid-19 antigen test in Kolkata | PTI

> **If the states are not complying with the directions and orders of the government, you are not helpless. You have to ensure that your order is implemented. You have got the power under the Disaster Management Act. You can take steps also**
>
> Supreme Court told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta on July 31

On the aspect of paying salaries, the government wrote to five states — Maharashtra, Delhi, Tripura, Karnataka and Punjab on August 1 — asking them to ensure there was no delay in releasing salaries of HCWs and sought a compliance report.

According to the reports sent by five states, which were defaulters earlier, submitted that the pending salaries have been paid.

However, in Delhi, doctors working at a polyclinic under the North Municipal Corporation of Delhi have not been paid salaries.

Punjab has told the court that they have cleared all the dues for June and salary bills for July have been submitted to the state treasury.

Similarly, Karnataka has taken steps to release stipends for interns and junior doctors of two colleges JMM College in Davangere and Kasturba Medical College in Mangalore between April and June.

Tripura said it has cleared all the pending dues and salaries are now being paid on time. The court has slated the detailed hearing for next week.

'Indian islands to play key role for trade strategy'

NEW DELHI: PM Narendra Modi on Monday said all the islands in the country would play an important role under India's new trade strategy for Indo-Pacific region. He also said Andaman & Nicobar will be developed as hub of port led development to tap the advantage of the competitive distance from many ports of the world.

Inaugurating the first undersea optical fibre project for Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Modi stressed that the country which has better network of ports and their connectivity will be able to provide a boost to trade in the 21st Century.

"Apart from providing for better internet and mobile connectivity, the effort is to further improve physical connectivity through road, air and water," Modi said. *ENS*

IN HOSPITALS

Sanitation staff, attendants most vulnerable to Covid: AIIMS

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

MUCH more than the general population, all workers in hospitals are more susceptible to contract Covid-19 and within the category, it's mostly sanitation workers and attendants who are bearing the brunt of the infection, a study at AIIMS-Delhi has found.

The study — 'Risk stratification as a tool to rationalise quarantine among health care workers exposed to Covid-19 cases – Evidence from a tertiary healthcare centre in India' — showed that a total of 321 positive cases were reported to the Central Contact Tracing Team from April 11 to June 8.

Of these, 238 (74.1 per cent) were healthcare workers (HCWs) and other employees, while 83 (25.9 per cent) were patients admitted in non-Covid areas due to other medical conditions.

Among the Covid-19 positive HCWs, the largest proportion was contributed by hospital attendants and sanitation workers (35.3 per cent), followed by nurses (17.2 per cent), and security personnel (13.3%).

Doctors and laboratory staff contributed about 12 per cent, while others included administrative staff (5.5 per cent), and other workers. These figures tabulated as part of the analysis have brought to the fore the extreme vulnerability of the lowest-rung workers in hospital settings.

A researcher associated with the project told this newspaper that a major reason for many sanitation workers and ward boys catching the infection could be complete lack of or low-quality PPE kits provided to them.

SC rejects Bhushan regret, contempt case to continue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Monday refused to accept senior advocate **Prashant Bhushan**'s explanation for his interview to a news magazine in 2009, wherein he had made allegations against former chief justices of India, and decided to proceed with the contempt case against him.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said the hearing will commence on August 17 on the aspect whether the statements were given by Bhushan amount to per se contempt or not, or his statement is sufficed or not, it will be heard on merit.

The bench also turned down the request of senior advocate Shanti Bhushan, to list the matter once physical court hearings resume.

The top court had in November 2009 issued contempt notice to Bhushan and journalist Tarun Tejpal for allegedly casting aspersions on some sitting and former top court judges in the interview. Tejpal was then editor of the magazine.

Last week, the bench had reserved its order after Bhushan offered an explanation for his interview but did not tender an apology.

"In my interview to Tehelka in 2009, I have used the word corruption in a wide sense meaning lack of propriety. I did not mean only financial corruption or deriving any pecuniary advantage," his statement stated.

Bhushan maintained that he supported the institution of the judiciary, and especially the Supreme Court. He clarified that he had no intention of lowering the prestige of the judiciary in which he has complete faith. During the brief hearing last week, the bench had said it does not want to curtail the freedom of speech and expression but for the contempt, there is a thin line.

On July 22, the top court had issued notice to Bhushan in a separate suo motu contempt proceedings initiated against him for his alleged derogatory tweets against the judiciary, saying his statements prima facie brought the administration of justice in disrepute.

What Bhushan said in his statement

"In my interview to Tehelka in 2009, I have used the word corruption in a wide sense meaning lack of propriety. I didn't mean only financial corruption or deriving any pecuniary advantage. If what I have said caused hurt to any of them or to their families, I regret the same."

Hardeep Puri says runways of Kozhikode, other airports safe as per ICAO guidelines

NEW DELHI: Amid the speculation over the reasons behind the Air India Express crash, Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri on Monday asserted that measures at all airports, including the one at Kozhikode, are implemented after due consideration of guidelines and all options available.

Puri said the Kozhikode airport is equipped with Runway End Safety Area (RESA) as per ICAO guidelines on safety. The Engineered Material Arrestor System (EMAS) provides safety benefit if less than standard RESA length is available or at airports where RESA cannot be provided due to constraints.

"The AAI will recalculate declared distances to provide 240m (length) of RESA by reducing the Landing Distance Available (LDA) appropriately at Safety Critical Airports which can be reduced if a suitably designed Aircraft Decelerating System is provided beyond minimum 90m (length) of RESA," Puri tweeted.

"Provision of EMAS at Mangalore & Kozhikode were examined by AAI in consultation with DGCA, subsequent to @airindiain accident at Mangalore in 2010. Tabletop runways at both these Airports are accordingly provided with RESA of 240m & 90m in compliance to DGCA directive," he added. *ENS*

EXPRESS READ

How can Maha, Delhi cancel exams: UGC

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) on Monday questioned the Delhi and Maharashtra governments' decision to not conduct final-year exams amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the UGC, told the bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan that the two state governments' decision is contrary to the UGC guidelines. "How can states cancel exams when UGC is empowered to confer degrees?" Mehta said.

ANNUAL PHENOMENON

500 people, 100 elephants die due to conflict: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

OVER 500 people and 100 elephants die every year due to conflict with each other, while property worth millions are damaged, according to data by the Union Environment Ministry released on Monday.

India has the largest number of wild Asian elephants, estimated at 29,964 — which is about 60 per cent of the species' global population — according to the 2017 census by Project Elephant.

> **Each year, over 100 elephants die due to human-related activities, which include poaching for ivory or meat, electrocution and collision with trains**
>
> Environment Ministry

Loss of natural habitat and fragmentation have been bringing wild elephants closer to human habitations, sparking human-elephant conflicts.

"Human habitation is impinging on the boundary of many Protected Areas and shrinking space, shortage of food often forces wild animals towards populated areas. Each year, human-elephant conflict results in about 500 human deaths while over 100 elephants die due to human-related activities, which include poaching for ivory or meat, electrocution and collision with trains," highlight a document 'Best Practices of Human-Elephant Conflict Management in India'.

Sanjay Kumar, director general (forest) said elephant population is rising, but what is very concerning is serious conflicts with humans reported in elephant-range states.

"They are migrating from Jharkhand to Chhattisgarh to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and in other areas, where they were not present before. New research methodologies are being looked at so that the migration to newer areas remain stable not only genetically but also they could have habitat to create the least conflicting environment," he said.

'EIA criticism premature'

Objections to the draft Environment Impact Assessment 2020 was unnecessary and premature, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called for scrapping it.

"We have received thousands of suggestions which we welcome. We will consider those suggestions," he said.

MATTER OF CONCERN

At least five states facing acute shortage of medical abortion pills, shows survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A survey to assess the availability of the medical abortion pills in six states has shown its acute shortage in the majority of the states, triggering concerns of a sharp rise in unwanted pregnancies in the coming months as a large number of women lack this access.

The study by Foundation for Reproductive Health Services India among 1,500 chemists found that there was an overwhelming shortage of the drugs in five out of the six states surveyed with an abysmal stocking in Madhya Pradesh (6.5 per cent), Punjab (1.0 per cent), Tamil Nadu (2.0 per cent), Haryana (2.0 per cent), and Delhi (34.0 per cent). The only state that did better was Assam (69.6 per cent).

The non-stocking of MA drugs seems to be linked with over-regulation by drug control authorities, said authorities at the FRSHI, adding that about 79 per cent of chemists no longer stock MA drugs to avoid legal issues and excessive documentation requirements.

Also, 54.8 per cent of chemists also reports that MA drugs are over-regulated as compared to other schedule H drugs. Even in Assam, 58 per cent chemists report over-regulation of MA drugs.

State-wise regulatory or legal barriers continue to be a major reason for not stocking MA drugs, with 63 per cent chemists in Haryana, 40 per cent in Madhya Pradesh, 74 per cent in Punjab and 79 per cent in Tamil Nadu reporting so.

VS Chandrashekar, CEO of the FRHSI and Pratigya Campaign Advisory Group member said medical abortion has increasingly become the preferred method to terminate a pregnancy in India and the non-availability of drugs is threatening women's access to safe abortion.

"Evidence shows MA drugs are a safe and effective means to terminate a pregnancy, their non-availability can potentially reverse the gains made by the country in reducing unsafe abortions, maternal mortality and morbidity," he said.

While the purpose of the study was to verify the availability of MA drugs, the findings also revealed that emergency contraceptive pills are not being stocked by chemists in the state of Tamil Nadu.

ASSAM

FIRs were filed against BJP MLA Shiladitya Dev for his controversial remark that the revered Assamese litterateur Syed Abdul Malik was an "intellectual jihadi". Assam Sahitya Sabha, the state's highest literary body, also slammed Dev

1.33 LAKH LITRE OF LIQUOR SEIZED IN PUNJAB

Ahmedabad	30	24	Mumbai	31	27
Bhopal	30	25	Panaji	29	25
Jaipur	34	26	Patna	34	27
Amritsar	33	26	Lucknow	34	26
Chennai	34	26	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	23
Srinagar	32	19	Chandigarh	33	26

Shah Faesal ends political career

JKPM accepts resignation; former bureaucrat may return to civil service or go abroad for studies

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

FORMER IAS officer-turned politician and Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement (JKPM) president Shah Faesal has quit politics and stepped down as president of the party he had founded in March last year.

"Shah Faesal had informed State Executive members of the party that he was not in a position to continue with political activities and wants to be freed from the responsibilities of the organization," the JKPM said in a statement. It said the party decided to accept his request and appointed Feroze Peerzada as acting president of the party.

Before stepping down as JKPM chief and quitting politics, 37-year-old Faesal had dropped political bio-data from his Twitter handle.

JKPM acting president Feroze Peerzada told this newspaper that after his release from detention last month, Faesal was not happy and considering quitting the politics. "He is not happy with today's politics in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Peerzada said Faesal, who was IAS topper in 2009, would either rejoin civil services or go for higher studies abroad. "He is a free bird and nobody can question his decision."

Sources said the government has not accepted Faesal's resignation from civil services yet because the Central government had initiated disciplinary proceedings against him for his tweets in July 2018. They said officials may have also remained in touch with Faesal even during his detention for convincing him to return to civil service and to quit politics.

According to a source, while in detention Faesal had given an inkling that he was not "comfortable with politics and would quit it and go abroad for study". "After his release, he talked to his well wishers, friends and family members and finally took the decision to quit the politics," the source said.

Faesal, who had quit civil service job in January 2019, had been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) after detention following scrapping of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K in August last year. The PSA against Faesal was revoked by the government last month and he was released from detention and put under house detention. Since his release, he has been under house detention.

As a member of IAS, I have been a stakeholder in the future of this nation. I can't imagine why some people would be anti-India. I can't be seen as a traitor to a nation that has given me everything...

Shah Faesal to a TV channel

Drops political bio quietly

Despite Faesal submitting his resignation, his name was not removed from the list of J&K cadre IAS officers on the govt website. Faesal quietly dropping his political bio from Twitter. "Edward S Fellow @HKS Harvard University, Medico. Fulbright. Centrist," his Twitter bio reads.

Expect him to return to administration: BJP

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE BJP welcomed Shah Faesal's decision to quit politics even as political commentators pointed as the shrinking space for mainstream politics in Jammu and Kashmir after revocation of Article 370 in August last year.

BJP General Secretary, organisation, Ashok Koul termed Faesal's decision as a good step. "It is a good move. We expect him to again be a part of the administration. He should join the administration and work for the welfare of the people. It will be better."

Political commentator Noor Mohammad Baba, however, says the development since August 5 last year has changed the discourse and atmosphere of politics in J&K. "The context in which Shah Faesal joined politics is no more there. It is now different type of politics. May be he has realised that he cannot do what he had imagined to do when he joined politics last year. He must have felt the present atmosphere was not suited for his type of politics."

Baba, who taught political science at University of Kashmir, said Faesal wanted to provide alternative to mainstream politics in J&K but then even the mainstream politics is under stress since last year.

"He did not enjoy freedom for the last one year. It must have had an impact on him and his family," he said.

Faesal, who was IAS topper in 2009, had quit his civil service job in January last year to plunge into politics.

The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement president was detained along with other mainstream leaders after scrapping of Article 370 by centre on August 5 last year and was among a dozen leaders including three former CMs to be booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). Although his PSA was revoked in July, he still continues to remain under house detention.

Another political commentator, who refused to be named, said the challenges for politics in J&K are much bigger now since last year.

"The role which Faesal visualised for himself to play is impossible now as that kind of atmosphere is not available," he said.

The political commentator said there are more complexities involved in politics now and even if Faesal stayed in politics, he could not have contributed much.

"In the given atmosphere of restrictions and changed political context, he must want to focus on studies and then may join administration again," the political commentator said.

Floods: PM calls for better Centre-state coordination

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday called for closer coordination between the Centre and the states for a permanent mechanism on forecasting of floods.

In a review meeting held via video conference with chief ministers of Kerala, Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, Modi said that there are pilot efforts underway to use innovative technologies to improve locations specific forecast.

The PM had also earlier held one round of review meeting with some of the chief ministers dealing with the flood situations.

Stating that innovative technologies, including AI, are being used in forecasting floods in some of the pilot projects, Modi asked the states to provide necessary information to the agencies concerned and timely disseminate the warnings to local communities.

"Over the past few years, our forecasting agencies like IMD and Central Water Commission have been making concerted efforts to make better and more usable flood forecasts. They are trying to provide not only rainfall and river level forecast but also location specific forecast of inundation," Modi said.

Though floods are annual feature, Assam is badly affected this year | PTI

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, meanwhile, said his state didn't get the cooperation from Nepal in carrying out repair works on embankments in the no-man's land. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray sought over ₹1,500 crore funds in order to carry out relief work in the state.

Unfair media trial in Sushant case: Rhea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ACTOR Rhea Chakraborty on Monday approached the Supreme Court with a fresh plea, alleging media trial and attempts to pronounce her guilty for the death of Sushant Singh Rajput.

Filing a fresh 11-page affidavit, she maintained that the Bihar government does not have the jurisdiction to probe and try the matter.

The actor has also submitted that the transfer of the case to the CBI is without jurisdiction. "State of Bihar has acted in an illegal manner in forwarding the case to Additional CMP at Patna Sadar instead of jurisdictional magistrate at Mumbai coupled with the fact that the ruling party in Bihar and Centre is same and the said party is in minority in the State of Maharashtra."

Rhea is now seeking a transfer of the case from Bihar to Maharashtra. In her plea, she alleged that the death of Sushant is being sensationalised by the media since it occurred at a time when the Bihar elections are due. "This has led to the suicide being blown out of proportion. Actors Ashutosh Bhakre and Sameer Sharma were also reported to have died by suicide in last 30 days and yet no whisper about the same in power corridors. In case of death of Sushant Singh Rajput, CM of Bihar is reported to be responsible for the registration of FIR in Patna," the affidavit said.

The plea further alleged that media channels are examining and cross-examining all the witnesses in the case and that Chakraborty has been convicted by media even before a foul-play in the case is established.

Actor Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik leave ED office in Mumbai | PTI

FARMER

'Govt did not take consent for using pic'

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A Punjab farmer has threatened to sue the Union Agriculture Ministry for using his picture, without his consent, on an advertisement in support of new farm policies. "I oppose these policies and ordinances, but the ministry has used my old photograph without my approval. I have been projected in poor light. I am ready to give some time to the government to remove my photograph from the advertisement and apologize. Else, I will send a legal notice to the Ministry of Agriculture," says Gurpreet Singh of Chandbaja village in Faridkot district.

"The published photograph was taken in October 2018 when the DC of Faridkot visited my fields as I had not burnt the paddy stubble in my land that year as part of the anti-stubble burning campaign."

Singh grows wheat and paddy in his 10-acre land and is also an activist. "These ordinances will ruin the farmers as corporates will take over and the MSP will end," said Singh.

MANIPUR

Biren Singh wins as 8 Cong MLAs absent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

MANIPUR'S BJP-led coalition government survived on Monday as CM N Biren Singh won the motion of confidence via voice vote during a special one-day Assembly session.

Singh moved the motion of confidence after a no-trust motion had been moved by opposition Congress. Eight Congress MLAs abstained from voting defying a whip issued by the opposition party. At the end of trust vote, the Congress staged a protest as Speaker Khemchand Singh went for voice vote and not "division vote".

The strength of the 60-member Manipur Assembly was reduced to 53 after the Speaker had disqualified four members under the anti-defection law while three BJP MLAs resigned from the House in June.

Currently, the Congress has 24 MLAs, BJP 18, National People's Party four, Naga People's Front four, Trinamool Congress one, Lok Janshakti Party one and there is an Independent. The Congress had moved the no-confidence motion on July 28. It made a similar demand in June when three BJP MLAs resigned and six others — all four from the NPP and the AITC and the independent MLAs — withdrew support to the government. But, the four NPP MLAs returned to the coalition last month.

Engineering graduate Anurag Kumar (C) works with a Delhi firm | EXPRESS

Bihar app-maker can caption pic in a jiffy

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

GOOD news for those who share their pictures with beautiful captions on social media: A Bihar-born IT engineer has developed an app that helps you do that in minutes.

The 'Caption Plus' is available and has bagged an award in the self-reliant India competition started under the Pradhan Mantri Atma Nirbhar Bharat scheme.

Inventor Anurag Kumar, 27, belongs to Adharpur village in Bihar's Begusarai district. He along with his two friends would be awarded with a cash prize, a certificate and a trophy separately in the entertainment section.

He is an engineering graduate from Delhi University and works as chief technology officer with a Delhi-based furniture rental company.

As an IT engineer, Anurag started developing this app in 2018 and completed in 2019 along with his two friends.

"When the Prime Minister called upon the country's talents to showcase their innovations under the ambitious Atma Nirbhar Bharat, I decided to put my app."

"The app is being lapped up by thousands of users on social media globally every day. If you load your photo on social media and want the story or caption of your photo to be very interesting, then this app will help you: It doesn't take hours, only a few minutes," he said.

When the PM called upon the country's talents to showcase innovations under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat, I decided to put my app

Anurag Kumar, IT engineer

EXPRESS READ

Will probe Shopian encounter, says Army

Srinagar: The Army on Monday said it has launched probe into the July 18 Shopian encounter after families of three labourers from Rajouri alleged that the trio have gone missing and feared that they might have been killed in a fake encounter. Three militants were killed in the encounter. "We have noted social media inputs linked to the operation at Shopian on July 18," defence spokesman Colonel Rajesh Kalia said, adding that the three terrorists killed in the operation have not been identified and the bodies were buried based on established protocols. "Army is investigating the matter," Colonel Kalia said.

SETTING EXAMPLE

Jharkhand minister, a dropout, enters school again

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

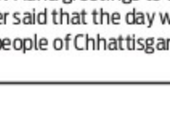
JHARKHAND Education Minister **Jagarnath Mahto**, a matriculate, has taken admission in Nawadih Devi Mahto Inter School in Bokaro, a school he helped set up in 2006 after becoming MLA for the first time in 2005.

Mahto, 53, said he wanted to remove the blot of being called as an under-qualified education minister.

He passed Class 10 boards in 1995 from Nehru High School at Telo in Bokaro. He could not pursue further studies.

"Just after taking oath as a Cabinet minister, I had decided that I would complete my graduation while remaining as the education minister," said Mahto.

On the day of swearing-in, he took another pledge -- he would respond to unkind remarks by his positive action.



"I told myself I would pursue my intermediate course and strive to provide quality education to children," said Mahto. He has appealed to the parents of Jharkhand that if they have not received good education in their lives, they must take steps to provide better education to their wards.

"I would like to tell people that there is no age for learning. One can get academic education at any point of time. All it requires is will power," said Mahto.

The Education Minister said to encourage children to continue their education, a provision has been made by the state government to give prize money of ₹3 lakh, ₹2 lakh and ₹1 lakh respectively to the fist second and third toppers respectively in each of three streams – Science, Arts and Commerce in Intermediate.

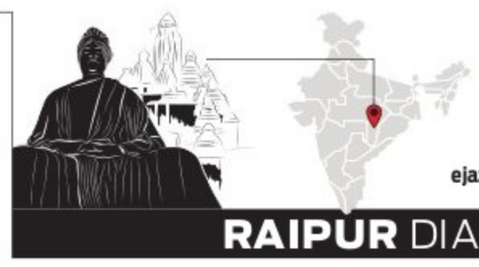
He also passed an order on Monday to set up a model school in each of the 4,416 panchayats equipped with facilities on par with convent schools. Mahto said he would like all state government schools to follow the Delhi model.

Mahto has been vocal in changing the existing domicile policy of the state, making 1932 land records as a base for identifying a person as the native of the state so that government jobs could be made available for the locals.

In his recent controversial statement, Mahto stressed reserving government jobs only for those who have attended government schools.

New Olympic body formed

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has been nominated as President of the Chhattisgarh Olympic Association (CGOA) with the formation of a new executive body. The election process was held during a Special General Body meeting at a private hotel in the state capital Raipur. The earlier body's tenure had ended in October 2018. The election was postponed twice due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The polling was held for the lone seat of Treasurer. According to the list of new CGOA released to the media, the Secretary General is Gurucharan Singh Hora. The 10 vice-presidents include Devendra Yadav, Vinod Chandrakar, Vijay Agrawal (Durg), Bashir Ahmed Khan, Gajraj Pagaria, Dr A. Farishta, among others.



RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Govt to provide urban forest land to tribals

Chhattisgarh government has decided to provide urban forestland under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, to the tribals and other traditional forest-dwellers for household purposes. The Bhupesh Baghel-led government on Monday claimed that Chhattisgarh is the first state in the country to provide such an entitlement. The government cited that 11 families, who are living under the jurisdiction of JMC, were given the rights on Sunday. The pattas were handed over to the beneficiaries by the Bastar's Member of Parliament Deepak Baij. An official from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that the entitlement would be given to tribals across the state.

Haj House Foundation laid

The foundation stone of the Chhattisgarh Haj House was laid by Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel though a video conference here on Saturday, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office informed. "Fulfilling a much-awaited demand of the Muslim community in Chhattisgarh, the Haj House will be constructed in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar near Mandir Hasaud Road Airport on three acres of land at a cost of around ₹26 crore. The five-storey building will have all facilities for Haj pilgrims," the statement said. While extending Eid ul-Adha greetings to the Muslim community in the state, the Chief Minister said that the day was an opportunity of double happiness for the people of Chhattisgarh.

NMDC mining production up by 35%

Mining giant National Mineral Development Corporation recorded a sharp rise in overall production and sales in July as compared to the corresponding period last year. India's largest iron-ore producer registered the feat amidst uncertainties sparked off due to COVID-19. NMDC has been able to achieve excellent physical performance through its continual push towards higher volumes which saw production of 2.19 million tonne (MT) and sales 2.57 MT that grew by 13% and 7% over the corresponding period last year, respectively. In July, the Chhattisgarh Projects registered a production of 1.56 MT as compared to 1.16 MT last year, an increase of 35%.

19 civilians

were killed in attacks on three villages by a militia in the troubled eastern DR Congo province of Ituri

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain HR: Heavy Rain TDS: Thundershower LC: Light Cloud SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	25 SNY	Los Angeles	27	15	SNY
Colombo	30	25 TDS	Melbourne	15	11	LC
Doha	41	31 SNY	Moscow	20	12	TDS
Dubai	43	33 SNY	New York	30	22	LC
Houston	34	24 TDS	Singapore	33	27	LR
Istanbul	31	21 SNY	Toronto	29	16	TDS
London	34	19 SNY	Washington DC	31	23	LC

LEBANESE GOVT RESIGNS AMID MOUNTING ANGER

Public has set its sights on ruling elite's downfall in blast aftermath

BEIRUT

LEBANON'S government resigned Monday amid widespread public fury at the country's ruling elite over last week's devastating explosion in Beirut. The move risks opening the way to dragged-out negotiations over a new Cabinet amid urgent calls for reform.

Prime Minster Hassan Diab headed to the presidential palace to submit the Cabinet's group resignation, said Health Minister Hamad Hassan. It follows a weekend of anti-government protests in the wake of the Aug. 4 explosion in Beirut's port that caused widest-pread destruction, killed at least 160 people and injured about 6,000 others.

The moment typified Lebanon's political dilemma. Since October, there have been mass demonstrations demanding the departure of the entire sectarian-based leadership over entrenched corruption, incompetence and mismanagement. But the ruling oligarchy has held onto power for so long — since the end of the civil war in 1990 — that it is difficult to find a credible political figure not tainted by connections to them.

Although Diab's resignation had appeared inevitable after the catastrophe, he seemed unwilling to leave and only two days ago made a televised speech in which he offered to stay on for two months to allow for various factions to agree on a roadmap for reforms. But the pressure from within his own Cabinet proved to be too much.

Protesters throw back tear-gas canisters at riot cops during anti-government demos on Monday following last week's huge explosion that devastated Beirut | AP

Diab's government was formed after his predecessor, Saad Hariri, stepped down in October in response to the demonstrations. It took months of bickering among the leadership factions before they settled on Diab.

His government, which was supported by Hezbollah and its allies and seen as one-sided, was basically doomed from the start, tasked with meeting demands for reform but made up of all the factions that reformers want out. His government was basically doomed from the start, tasked with meeting demands for reform but made up of all the factions that reformers want out.

Now the process must start again, with Diab's government in a caretaker role as the same factions debate a new one. "I hope that the caretaking period will not be long because the country cannot take that. Lets hope a new government will be formed quickly," Public Works Minister Michel Najjar said. "An effective government is the least we need to get out of this crisis."

The weekend protests saw clashes with security forces firing tear gas at protesters.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by a fire that ignited a 2,750-ton stockpile of highly volatile ammonium nitrate. The material had been stored at the port since 2013 with few safeguards despite numerous warnings.

The result was a disaster Lebanese blame squarely on their leadership's corruption and neglect. Losses from the catastrophic blast are estimated to be between $10 billion to $15 billion, with nearly 300,000 people left homeless.

The last decision taken by the government before its resignation was to refer the case of the blast to the Supreme Judicial Council, which handles crimes infringing on national security as well as political and state security crimes. *AP*

VIRUS WAR

WHO sees hope despite looming 7.5L death count

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization insisted there was still hope of conquering the coronavirus pandemic despite the suffering behind the looming landmarks of 7,50,000 deaths and 20 million cases.

With both figures expected to be reached within days, the WHO stressed it was never too late to take action to suppress the COVID-19 crisis that has gripped the planet.

"This week we'll reach 20 million registered cases of Covid-19 and 750,000 deaths," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

"Behind these statistics is a great deal of pain and suffering. Every life lost matters. I know many of you are grieving and that this is a difficult moment for the world.

"But I want to be clear: there are green shoots of hope and... it's never too late to turn the outbreak around."

Tedros gave examples of countries that had successfully clamped down on the spread of Covid-19, citing New Zealand and Rwanda, and praised nations that had suffered major national outbreaks and were now responding quickly to local spikes.

"My message is crystal clear: suppress, suppress, suppress the virus," he said.

"If we suppress the virus effectively, we can safely open up societies." *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Bomb targeting narcs near Af border kills 5

A bomb targeting an anti-drug force tore through a busy market in southwestern Pakistan near the Afghan border on Monday, killing at least five and wounding 10 others. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion in town of Chaman, which was caused by a bomb attached to a motorcycle. The bombing targeted a unit tasked with combating narcotics smuggling. Mohammad Ali, a local police official, said some of the wounded were in critical condition. The attack came over a week after Pakistani troops opened fire at a rally in the town organised by minority Pashtun laborers to demand the reopening of the border crossing. The security forces killed at least three people.

SINGAPORE

188 new cases reported, including two Indians

Three people who returned to Singapore from India tested positive for Covid-19, as the city-state reported 188 new cases on Monday, taking the tally to 55,292. Singaporean had returned from India on July 25 and two Indian nationals holding work passes had arrived on July 26. Singapore's total number of Covid-19 cases rose past 55,000 on Sunday - the country's 55th National Day.

THAILAND

Rally draws thousands as discontent swells

Thousands of people from all walks of Thai society came out in force Monday to an anti-government protest, the largest ever show of dissent targeting premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha's administration after weeks of rallies. Waving rainbow flags, acerbic signs and posters of missing pro-democracy activists, the demonstrators descended in waves to Thammasat University in the outer edges of Bangkok as the sun set. The robust attendance comes after weeks of near-daily student-led protests denouncing the military-aligned administration. Over the weekend, two activists were arrested under charges of sedition -- and then released on bail -- for their alleged role in a massive July 18 rally.

Post-poll police brutality in Belarus as oppn rejects result

MINSK

BELARUS' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko warned on Monday that the protesters who challenge the vote results extending his 26-year rule will face a tough crackdown, deriding the opposition as "sheep" manipulated by foreign masters.

Dozens were injured and thousands detained hours after Sunday's vote, when police brutally broke up mostly young protesters with tear gas, water cannons and flash-bang grenades and beat them with truncheons. Rights activists said one person died after being run over by a police truck — which the authorities denied.

Election officials said Monday that Lukashenko won a sixth term in office with 80% of the vote, while opposition challenger Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya got 10%. Tsikhanouskaya dismissed the official results as a sham and demanded a recount, submitting a formal request Monday to the Central Election Commission. The opposition is planning new protests in the capital, Minsk, and other cities later in the day.

A police officer holds a gun as others block the road to protect against demonstrators after the Belarusian presidential election in Minsk on Monday | AP

The brutal police crackdown drew harsh criticism from European capitals and will likely complicate Lukashenko's efforts to mend ties with the West amid tensions with his main ally and sponsor, Russia.

But Lukashenko, whose iron-fisted rule since 1994 has fueled growing discontent in the ex-Soviet nation of 9.5 million, warned that he wouldn't hesitate to use force again to disperse the opposition demonstrations. He argued that the protesters met a due response overnight after injuring 25 cops and attempting to take control of official buildings in several cities.

"We will not allow them to tear the country apart," he said. He asserted that the opposition was being directed from Poland and Czechia. *AP*

McDonald's sues ex-CEO for lies about relationships

BEIRUT

MCDONALD'S says it's suing Stephen Easterbrook, the CEO it ousted last year over an inappropriate relationship with an employee, alleging Monday that he covered up relationships with three other employees and destroyed evidence.

The company wants to reclaim the compensation paid to Easterbrook on his exit.

McDonald's fired Easterbrook last November after he acknowledged exchanging videos and text messages in a non-physical, consensual relationship with an employee. Easterbrook told the company that there were no other similar instances.

According to the lawsuit, McDonald's received an anonymous tip in July that Easterbrook had been in a sexual relationship with another employee. After an investigation, McDonald's confirmed that relationship as well as two other physical, sexual relationships in the year before he was fired. He also approved a special grant of restricted stock to one of those employees, the lawsuit said. *AP*

POLITICAL DIVIDE

US health officials are quitting or getting fired

PROVIDENCE

VILIFIED, threatened with violence and in some cases burned out, dozens of state and local public health officials around the United States have resigned or have been fired amid the coronavirus outbreak, a testament to how politically combustible masks, lockdowns and infection data have become.

The latest departure came Sunday, when California's public health director, Dr. Sonia Angell, quit without explanation following a technical glitch that caused a delay in reporting virus test results — information that was used to make decisions about reopening businesses and schools.

Last week, New York City's health commissioner was replaced after months of tension with the Police Department and City Hall.

A review by the Kaiser Health News service and The Associated Press finds at least 48 state and local health leaders have resigned, retired or been fired since April across 23 states. The list has grown by more than 20 people since the AP and KHN began tracking departures in June.

Dr. Sonia Angell, California's public health director | AP

The departures of so many top leaders around the country make a bad situation worse, at a time when the U.S. needs good public health leadership the most, said Lori Tremmel Freeman, CEO of the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Many of the firings and resignations have to do with conflicts over mask orders or social distancing shutdowns, she said. Many politicians and ordinary Americans have argued that such measures are not needed, contrary to the scientific evidence and the advice of public health experts. "It's not a health divide; it's a political divide," Freeman said. *AP*

HK media tycoon detained under new China law

HONG KONG

HONG Kong pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai was arrested Monday and led in handcuffs through his newspaper office as police raided the building, part of a sweeping crackdown on dissent since China imposed a security law on the city.

It was the latest police operation against dissidents under the sweeping new law and sparked a fresh round of condemnation over Hong Kong's stuttering freedoms.

Lai, 71, was among ten people detained on charges including colluding with foreign forces -- one of the new national security offences -- and fraud in an operation targeting his Next Digital publishing group.

Among the others arrested were two of Lai's sons, young pro-democracy activist Agnes Chow and Wilson Li, a former activist who describes himself as a freelance journalist working for Britain's ITV News.

Even as police were conducting interrogations, Beijing hailed Lai's arrest, declaring him an "anti-China rabble-rouser" who conspired with foreigners to "stir up chaos".

US Senator Marco Rubio led criticism overseas.

"As more arrests are expected, the free world must respond quickly as well as provide safe harbor to at-risk Hong Kongers," he tweeted.

China's new security law was imposed on June 30 and is not supposed to be retroactive.

The most serious national security crimes carry up to life in jail.

China sanctions 11 Americans in tit for tat

China announced unspecified sanctions against 11 US politicians and heads of organizations promoting democratic causes, including Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Monday said the 11 had "performed badly" on issues concerning Hong Kong. The number of Americans named equals the number of Hong Kong and Chinese officials placed on a sanctions list by the US last week over the crackdown. *Agencies*

SHARING IS CARING

The movement in the stock price of Next Digital on Aug 10

344%

After Lai's arrest, Next Digital shares soared more than 340% as supporters made online calls for people to buy the stock. The stock eventually closed up 183%

Hong Kongers posted screenshots of their stock purchases on social media to show their support for the pro-democracy media group

NEARLY 1 LAKH U.S. CHILD CASES REPORTED IN 2 WEEKS

3,38,982 Total child Covid-19 cases reported

97,078 New child cases reported during July 16-30

Data: American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association

7,59,21,562 is the total population of children in the US (2019)

8.8% Children accounted for 8.8% of all US coronavirus cases

Close to 1 lakh children in the US tested positive for Covid-19 in the last two weeks of July, according to a new report

DEATHS RARE

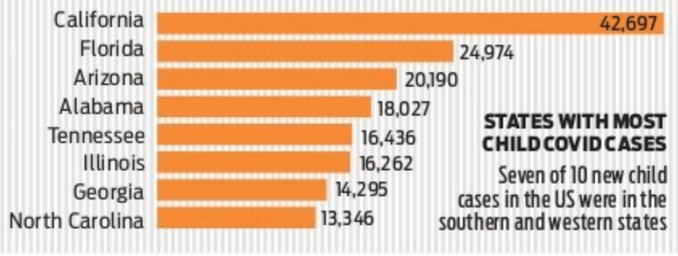
Children were 0%-0.8% of all Covid-19 deaths, as per the analysis by American Academy of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Association

0.6%-3.7%

of hospitalisations were children and up to 8.9% of kids with Covid-19 required hospitalisation

WHY THESE COVID NUMBERS MATTER

With many schools reopening around the world, data on how the coronavirus affects children will help policymakers decide the way forward



STATES WITH MOST CHILD COVID CASES

Seven of 10 new child cases in the US were in the southern and western states

Over 100 arrested as looters descend on Chicago

Chicago: Hundreds of looters and vandals descended on downtown Chicago early Monday following a police shooting on the city's South Side, smashing the windows of dozens of businesses and making off with merchandise, cash machines and anything else they could carry, police said. Hours earlier, police shot a man after he opened fire on officers Sunday afternoon, which apparently prompted a social media post urging looters to converge on the business district.

Italy's cruise ships set to sail again in high-stakes gamble

ROME

ITALY'S cruise industry is preparing to sail again in Mediterranean waters, hoping to help jumpstart the country's economy while restoring the reputation of the beleaguered global sector.

MSC Cruises, a privately owned company based in Geneva, will resume operations with two departures from Italy this month, it said.

It becomes the first global operator to announce cruises for the lucrative Mediterranean market after the coronavirus pandemic froze cruises throughout the world.

The MSC Grandiosa and MSC Magnifica are to set sail on Aug 16 and 29 from Genoa and Bari, respectively, to Italy, Malta and Greece in a high-stakes gamble for the industry that Italy's PM Giuseppe Conte has called a "fundamental part of our economy".

Italy's 14.5 billion euro ($17 billion) cruise industry -- Europe's largest -- is a key economic driver that supports nearly 53,000 jobs, according to the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

A Europe-wide suspension of cruises through August could result in a total economic loss of about 25.5 billion euros, CLIA has calculated.

Italy approved the restart of its cruise industry from August 15 as part of efforts to revive a moribund economy devastated by a more than two-month quarantine, with cruise operations suspended in March.

MSC was receiving "lots of calls" for the trips, although the ships will sail at 70% of normal passenger capacity, a spokesman said. *AFP*

Market Watch

MARKET			FOREX	
141.51	Sensex	38,182.08	Dollar	74.90
56.10	Nifty	11,270.15	Euro	88.78

(The government should) ensure that people's livelihoods are protected and they have spending power through a significant direct cash assistance.

Manmohan Singh, former PM

Former PM bats for cash transfers, credit guarantees

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

FORMER Prime Minister and well known economist Manmohan Singh believes an economic slump is inevitable and has advised the use of direct cash transfers to people and a Government-backed credit guarantee programme for firms.

Singh, widely seen as the architect of economic reforms in India starting in the 1990s, said in an e-mailed interview to the BBC that the Centre needs to ensure the protection of peoples' livelihoods "through significant direct cash assistance." As part of a three-pronged plan, he also sought a "Government-backed credit guarantee programme" for capital-starved businesses.

Several economists including Nobel Laureate Abhijit Mukherjea have suggested more direct cash transfers to poor people, as well as payroll support, to boost demand.

The former PM, who led India's government from 2004 till 2014, suggested that the Government should consider "institutional autonomy and processes" in a bid to fix the financial sector.

He also felt a "deep and prolonged economic slowdown" was "inevitable". India's GDP, which grew by 4.2 per cent last financial year, is forecast to shrink by around 5-10 per cent. Industrial production shrank by 57.6 per cent in April, 34.7 per cent in May and is expected to be in negative territory during this quarter too.

India went in for a strict lockdown from the last week of March, but has been 'unlocking' itself to allow the economic activity to recover. However, analysts see a pick-up in growth hampered by a combination of weak demand and re-imposition of lockdowns in many parts of the country.

He also pointed out that as the country was far more integrated globally than before, "what happens in the global economy will have a significant impact". Singh also seemed to feel mere monetary policy changes would not yield results. The RBI has reduced key policy rates by 2 per cent since the Covid pandemic started and has also pumped in credit into the market. However this has not seen businesses taking on more credit but rather has shown a slump in credit offtake as firms struggled to meet their expenses in the face of lockdowns and low demand.

SC shifts focus to AGR dues of insolvent cos

Centre queried on how over ₹40,000 crore in pending payments were going to be secured from bankrupt firms

JONATHAN ANANDA @New Delhi

THE Supreme Court bench hearing the crucial AGR case shifted its focus to the AGR dues of insolvent telecom firms on Monday, questioning the government's counsel on how it planned to secure these pending payments from companies that have gone bankrupt already.

The amount in question is not insignificant. Specifically, the bench pointed to two prominent cases—Anil Ambani's Reliance Communications and Aircel Group of Companies—which together owe upward of ₹43,000 crore. Videocon Telecommunications (with over Rs 2,000 crore dues) also found mention. The bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and M R Shah had sought documents on these companies and their insovelncies during the last hearing on the matter in late July.

On Monday, the SC delved into what the government planned to do in these cases. "Please tell us what will happen to the DoT's AGR related dues, if the companies like RCOM, Aircel and Videocon goes into insolvency then what would happen to the said amount. Tell us how you will recover ₹31,000 from RCOM and ₹12,000 crore from Aircel," the bench asked.

It also raised raised questions as to what initiated the insolvencies of these companies and said the SC was interested in the bonafides of the firms undergoing the bankruptcy process under the IBC.

In the case of Reliance Communications' dues, the bench asked why the bankruptcy proceedings were revived after the SC had directed RCom to pay telecom vendor Ericsson, an operational creditor and the firm had done so.

The question of the sale of spectrum owned by bankrupt firms also came under focus, with the bench questioning the delay in the Centre's filing of an appeal before the NCLAT in the matter. Aircel's representative, for its part, submitted before the court that the company held that spectrum could be sold, since it was a transferable asset.

The bench has directed the parties involved to file affidavits on the matter before the next hearing on August 14.

If companies like RCom, Aircel and Videocon go into insolvency... what would happen to the said amount. Tell us how you will recover ₹31,000 from RCOM and ₹12,000 crore from Aircel

SC to Centre

Centre to implement ₹10,000 cr Fund of Funds for MSMEs soon: SBI chief

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Centre is all set to implement the Fund of Funds scheme meant to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), according to State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Rajnish Kumar on Monday. The fund had been announced as part of the government's Atmnirbhar Bharat relief package in May.

"One is the immediate help for improving the liquidity of MSMEs; second, if unit is in trouble then support by way of subordinated debt which is guaranteed by the government, and third is the Fund of Funds which I presume would also get operationalised very soon," Kumar said, listing the number of initiatives taken by the government for the struggling, pandemic-impacted MSME sector. He was addressing a virtual MSME Conclave organised by FICCI's Karnataka State Council.

The Fund of Funds is primarily aimed at helping young MSMEs, where prospects of raising funds through professional corporations or venture capitalists are nearly nil. The scheme proposes to buy up to 15 per cent growth capital in high credit small businesses through the ₹10,000 crore corpus.

The government has taken other steps to boost the MSME sector sector—hit the hardest by the lockdown, many units have essentially shut shop por are on the verge of collapse.

It also announced a credit guarantee scheme (CGS) of ₹3,00,000 crore for MSMEs, and ₹20,000 crore for distressed firms, out of which about ₹1.20 lakh crore has already been sanctioned. Also speaking at the event, Union MSME minister Nitin Gadkari said that instructions have been given to all government entities to clear pending bills of MSMEs within 45 days. Gadkari also urged all Chief Ministers to do the same at the state level.

Help for improving liquidity of MSMEs; if the unit is in trouble then subordinated debt is guaranteed by the government; and the Fund of Funds, which I presume would also get operationalised very soon

Rajnish Kumar, chairman, SBI

ASIANOMICS

PAKISTAN

ECONOMIC GROWTH POSTIVE: MOODY'S

Credit ratings agency Moody's said Pakistan's economic output will remain positive in FY21 and forecasts a growth rate of 1-2% due to improvements made in various sectors. Though tax revenue has declined due to coronavirus impact, it's expected to increase. Likewise, even though government debt increased (touching 90% of GDP this fiscal), the risks of default were reduced thanks to the support from international financial institutions, including the IMF programme that will meet Pakistan's external financial needs for the next 1-1.5 years. According to Moody's, its current account deficit may remain at 2% this fiscal, and while interest rates are expected to adjust to the rate of decline in inflation, fiscal deficit will likely be between 8 and 8.5% of the GDP.

INDONESIA

SLOW STIMULUS DISBURSALS MAR RELIEF EFFORT

Millions of Indonesians are on the brink of plunging into poverty as the country's efforts to support its economy through its $50-billion coronavirus-stimulus package is marred by slow disbursals. Five months after its rollout, only 22.4% of the stimulus stands spent and even though the package was evenly split between health and economic recovery programmes including corporate tax exemptions to food and cash aid for households, its implementation leaves much to be desired. Just 39% of the $189 billion state budget, which includes the stimulus, was spent in the first half of 2020, down from 42% last year. Both the World Bank and the Indonesian government have warned that millions risk being plunged into poverty amid the pandemic, even as its economy shrank for the first time since 1999 in Q2. According to David Sumual, Bank Central Asia's chief economist, unless the stimulus was disbursed faster the economy risked contracting this year for the first time since 1998.

THAILAND

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE AT TWO-DECADE LOW

Owing to the pandemic's devastating effects on tourism, employment, and exports, Thailand's consumer confidence touched a 22-year-low, according to Thanavath Phonvichai from the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce. The grim situation is further worsened due to concerns over the ongoing political unrest. Consumer confidence improved last month both due to stimulus measures and easing of lockdown restrictions including re-opening of bars and nightclubs. But the political unrest brought back uncertainty among consumers and, despite rising to over 50 points from just over 49 in June, the index is still the lowest seen in 22 years. Or since the period infamously known as the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. While some entertainment businesses re-opened, others catering to tourists remain shut significantly hurting the economy.

DEEP DIVE

Q1FY21 likely a washout for India Inc: ICRA

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

RATING agency ICRA on Monday said that April-June quarter of 2020 is expected to be a washout quarter for India Inc and the impact is likely to be severe and prolonged for select sectors, especially aviation, hospitality, retail and allied businesses.

It added that the unabated rise in Covid-19 infections in the unlock phase and localised re-imposition of lockdowns in several states, have interrupted recovery seen in some sectors in recent weeks.

"Overall, Q1 FY2021 will be a washout for India Inc., with significant pressure on revenues and earnings, considering that the major part of the quarter was under lockdown or gradual ramp-up phase. With continuing fixed overheads and virtually no revenues, the earnings and margin profile of Corporate India is expected to have deteriorated quite sharply during the quarter, despite some recovery towards the end," said Shamsher Dewan, Vice President, ICRA.

ICRA said it also has taken rating actions to reflect the severity of the crisis, with 491 negative rating actions taken from March 1 to June 30, 2020.

AAI puts GoAir on cash-and-carry starting Tuesday

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Airports Authority of India (AAI) has put budget airline GoAir on cash-and-carry across all its airports from Tuesday, because the airline's dues have been steadily mounting. According to sources, the airline may have active dues of over ₹50-odd crore.

The airline confirmed the development in a statement late Monday night, noting that its operations will remain unaffected. GoAir said that it is "engaged in constructive discussions with AAI and would like to assure our customers that there is no impact on GoAir's operations. GoAir flights will continue to be operated as normal at all airports."

An order issued by AAI General Manager of Finance (revenue) R Ramani dated August 10, said that the public sector airports operator has decided to "put the operations of GoAir on cash & carry at all AAI airports from 12.01 am Tuesday (August 11)... GoAir (is) to make necessary arrangement to pay the required amount at respective stations for day-to-day operations."

The authority had only last month decided to put GoAir competitor SpiceJet on the cash-and-carry system from July 30 due to mounting pending payments, but had later deferred the action.

Retail auto sales have fallen much faster than wholesale demand: FADA

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

AUTOMAKERS' claims that retail sales are doing much better than factory dispatches may not be true as the latest data published by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) notes that retail sales across categories have fallen in the high double digits last month.

According to FADA, vehicle registrations in July 2020 fell by 36 per cent year-on-year to 11,42,633 units as India continues to fight with Covid-19. Retail passenger vehicle sales fell by more than 25 per cent year-on-year to 1,57,373 units even as market leader Maruti Suzuki reported marginal growth in domestic dispatches during the month. Rival Hyundai India's sales fell by a mere 2 per cent. Experts said that even after considering retail figures of states/UTs, which don't share their registration data, the retail numbers would be lower than wholesales figure.

Retail sales of two-wheelers fell 37 per cent to 8,74,638 units while commercial vehicle sales plunged 72 per cent to 19,293 units.

FADA President Ashish Harsharaj Kale said, "Current market conditions are still not indicative of the actual demand situation on an all India level and retails continue to de-grow in huge double digit despite the low base of last year." The rural market continues to show strong growth as the monsoon continues its good spell. However, banks and NBFCs, though flush with funds, are still remaining cautious, he said.

Covid-19 hit retail sales worse that expected, shows FADA's July data | EXPRESS

TOUGH FINANCES

High provisions push BoB into ₹864 cr Q1 loss

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

BANK of Baroda on Monday reported a net loss of ₹864 crore on a standalone basis for the first quarter (Q1FY21) due to increased provisioning for standard accounts. The lender had reported a standalone profit of ₹710 crore for the corresponding quarter of last year.

On a consolidated basis, the lender had reported a net loss of ₹679 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal. "We reported a loss for the (June) quarter of more than ₹800 crore as against a profit of ₹700 crore. Most of that is on account of heightened provision of standard assets, which has moved up by nearly ₹1,800 crore,' the bank's managing director and CEO Sanjiv Chadha told reporters.

Of the ₹1,800 crore, half is due to the provisioning done as per the RBI dispensation for assets that have not slipped on account of the moratorium and the other half of nearly ₹900 crore is on account of a government guaranteed loan the bank has," he said. He said the government guaranteed loan carries a zero percent risk weight and is standard and the provisioning has been done as per the June 7 circular of the RBI on stressed asset resolution. "We are carrying a very substantial provision on that account which would add up to nearly ₹2,500 crore," he told reporters.

PCs, hygiene, lounge wear top Amazon Prime Day Sale

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

AMAZON on Monday said it saw huge demand for products in Personal Computing, Large Appliances, Kitchen, Smartphones, Apparel and Pantry categories in terms of units sold during its Prime Day sales between August 6-7 .

The e-tailer said that the trend of Work and study-from-home purchases continued with prime members purchasing Laptops, Printers, Monitors, TVs, Wearables and storage. While people mostly stayed indoors during the pandemic, demand for fitness at home products including treadmills and home gyms witnessed a spike and were popular on Amazon, it said.

Sanitisation, health and safety products was also a priority for the buyers with a huge demand for health and personal care products. Summer/lounge/comfort wear topped the apparel shopping category along with beauty and self-care products.

Large appliances, gadgets and mobile phones made a strong comeback too. Large appliances saw favour with members with top selling brands being LG, IFB in washing machines; Whirlpool, Samsung in refrigerators; LG and Panasonic in air conditioner and IFB in microwave in kitchen and home appliances. Top selling brands in smartphones were OnePlus Nord 5G, OnePlus 7T series, etc.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

PI INDUSTRIES

Current Price ₹1,930.75

Target Price ₹2,342

Company has levers in place to sustain growth in the near term, such as: its recently established two multi-purpose plants; revenue from the Isagro acquisition; sustained growth momentum in the CSM business on account of a strong $1.5 billion order book, and product launches in the domestic market (two-three annually) providing earnings visibility.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TMS*

EARLY BOOST

Flipkart launches its first start-up accelerator programme

BISMAH MALIK @New Delhi

HOMEGROWN e-commerce firm Flipkart has announced the launch of its first ever start-up accelerator initiative in India—Flipkart Leap—in an effort to mentor B2B and B2C startups through a 16-week long programme. Flipkart also said that it could look at the possibility of funding these start-ups, besides helping them pitch their business models to investors, entrepreneurs and other ecosystem players after completion. The selected startups will also be provided an equity-free grant of $25,000.

"Flipkart Leap has identified five themes to shortlist relevant high-potential start-ups. These include Design & Make for India, Innovation in Digital Commerce, Technologies to Empower the Retail Ecosystem, Supply Chain Management & Logistics and Enabling Relevant Deep Tech applications," it said in a statement.

In 2019, Walmart-backed Flipkart also launched a fund in India focused on backing early-stage technology start-ups in fields like AI and voice assistant to assist its efforts in breaking into the tier II, III markets. Flipkart had earlier acquired several start-ups, such as digital payments start-up PhonePe, online fashion e-tailer Myntra, after-sales service providers Jeeves. Last year, the e-commerce giant led a $60 million funding round in logistics firm Shadowfax Technologies.

"Flipkart Leap is aimed at unlocking potential and nurturing new ideas that bring innovation, curiosity and unconventionality to the local entrepreneurial ecosystem, while boosting the government's 'Start-Up India' initiative," said CFO Kalyan Krishnamurthy.

The programme has been designed by Flipkart's Product Strategy & Deployment team led by Naren Ravula. The company said that the start-ups applying for Flipkart Leap should be based out of India and have a working prototype with early adoption metrics. The final participants will pitch to potential investors.

Flipkart Leap is aimed at unlocking potential and nurturing new ideas that bring innovation, curiosity and unconventionality to the local ecosystem

Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CFO, Flipkart

'Hungry' Anderson quashes retirement talk

James Anderson, 38, insisted on Monday he was still "hungry" to play Test cricket after speculation the England great was considering retirement. Anderson's match haul of 1-97 during England's win against Pakistan in the first Test led to speculation about his future. "I want to play as long as I possibly can," Anderson said.

STRATEGIC MOVE

BCCI invites EOI for IPL right

Board can give title contract to any bidder, not necessarily the one quoting highest

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

THE BCCI on Monday invited 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) for the title right of the Indian Premier League, seeking a replacement for Vivo. In an EOI, unlike in a tender process, BCCI can award the rights to anyone who submits interest, not necessarily to just the highest bidder.

In the conditions laid out, firms interested should have ₹300 crore in turnover as per the last audit. August 14 is the last date of submitting bid papers. The right will be awarded on August 18. The BCCI said in a statement rights will be awarded from August 18 to December 31, 2020, keeping the door open for Vivo to return next year.

Amid apprehensions that nobody will match Vivo's sum of ₹440 crore per year, BCCI is encouraged by a couple of firms keen on acquiring the rights. "Many have shown interest, which is good for brand IPL," IPL Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel told this newspaper.

Following the EOI process, BCCI can enter into a partnership with anyone they want and not necessarily the highest bidder. This is done to ensure that the highest bidder doesn't automatically get the rights. For example, BCCI can check the history of the firm, whether it helps retain IPL among the global brands and also its past partnerships, if any.

"For the avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that BCCI shall not be obliged to award the rights to the third party which indicates willingness to pay the highest fees in the course of discussions/negotiations with BCCI after submitting an EOI," BCCI said.

The BCCI believes this is the best option, considering there is so much happening with regards to Chinese firms. Though Vivo pulled out, Oppo, Redmi, Dream11, Byju's — all with Chinese connections — are key advertisers and BCCI can't stop them from expressing interest.

Govt clearance received

Patel confirmed BCCI has got permission from the government to stage IPL in the UAE. While it informally got the nod last week, papers arrived on Monday.

This year's IPL will be played from September 19 to November 10 in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is clarified that BCCI shall not be obliged to award the rights to the third party which indicates willingness to pay the highest fees in the course of discussions/negotiations with BCCI after submitting an EOI — BCCI

Athletics will be stronger in post-pandemic world: Coe

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

THERE'S hope. There's belief. In short, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe's words echoed optimism of a sport that would come out stronger and popular when the world crawls back to normal. His belief springs from statistics that show walking and running among the masses have increased during the pandemic. During his address at an online media seminar of Asian Athletics Association, Coe pointed out that WA has been working to popularise the sport through innovative ways. Campaign is one such vehicle.

Coe also pointed out that the pandemic has thrown WA a unique opportunity to meet more often and conduct virtual meetings. Major decisions like postponement of Olympic qualification dates, rescheduling major events and restarting competitions, every decision was taken.

"We are uniquely placed to promote local, regional and national health objectives. Research has shown throughout the pandemic, lockdown has forced more people to exercise, some statistics show an 80 per cent increase in global exercise pattern.

"Athletics is the main beneficiary of that because people are running and walking which will be a good asset as WA will not take it for granted and build upon this," said Coe. "As we come out of the pandemic, the world is a complicated place. There are many federations still yet to get to the peak. Some are still to face the worst. The way I look at the landscape we survey, I believe our sports is stronger, better connected and communicating better... more creative and more ingenious than it has ever been. We will come out stronger with greater fortitude than ever before."

The WA said there would be no change in Olympic qualification criteria. Executive director of the WA communications department, Jackie Broke-Doyle, who was one of the guest speakers, said it is not possible. She said most athletes have started training. And relaxing qualification criteria might lead to more athletes qualifying, which will not serve the sport well.

Dahlan Al Hamad, the AAA president, chalked out a plan through which smaller nations can benefit. "Our office is located in Bangkok," he said. "They give access to the stadium and we are working with smaller confederations who don't have the capability to train to come at this centre in Bangkok."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

State cricket units unsure about AGM

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

USUALLY, during this time of the year, state cricket associations affiliated to BCCI are busy finalising accounts and getting it audited as part of their preparations to hold annual general meetings (AGMs). Due to pandemic-induced lockdown, the situation is different this time, with most of the units in different stages of preparedness.

Last month, Baroda Cricket Association conducted its AGM online and approved audited accounts for four financial years. While a few other units are expected to follow the same path, others prefer waiting before finalising the process, given the relaxations offered by government in their respective states.

State units of Madhya Pradesh (MPCA) and Jharkhand (JSCA) have to conduct AGM by August 31 and they have decided to take different routes. MPCA wants to postpone the meeting, while JSCA wants to hold it online. The associations of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been told they can't hold a physical meeting until December.

"In a management committee meeting on Sunday, we decided to seek permission from the administration for the AGM in Ranchi. If permitted, we can have a regular meeting. Otherwise, we will meet online, as the AGM has to be conducted this month," said JSCA secretary Sanjay Sahay.

The MPCA, however, has written to the Registrar of Firms and Societies, seeking an extension of two months. "Holding AGM is not possible in the present situation. We are hopeful the registrar will accept our request," said MPCA secretary Sanjeev Rao.

Associations from south are not fretting over the issue as they have been given time till December. "There is no such deadline this year. Accounts are getting ready and once that is done, we will take a final call after consulting the president next week," said RS Ramasaamy, Tamil Nadu Cricket Association secretary.

Karnataka State Cricket Association will also wait till October-November, informed secretary Santosh Menon. "As per guidelines from the registrar, we cannot conduct in-person meetings. We will wait for a couple of months and if the situation becomes conducive, we can have a regular meeting. Else, we can decide otherwise," added Menon. Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) held its apex council meeting on Saturday, which was attended by president Rajinder Gupta and secretary Puneet Bali. However, the same might not be possible for the AGM.

"Apex council meeting was different. For AGM, we have to devise ways to ensure safety. We are working on it and will decide the date and process soon," said Puneet Bali, PCA secretary.

With inter-district movement still a problem in Maharashtra, the state unit has not thought about the AGM which is due next month. "No question of holding an online meeting. We will wait for the situation to improve," asserted Riyaz Bagwan, Maharashtra Cricket Association secretary.

Prajnesh hoping for Major luck

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

PRAJNESH Gunneswaran will go to New York in the hope that he makes it to the main draw of the US Open. A spate of withdrawals has meant that Sumit Nagal has already made the cut and Prajnesh is hoping for luck to shine down on him. "Yes, I will be going to the US and trying my luck," he told this newspaper.

The cut, right now, is at 129. Gunneswaran, who is World No 132, will make it into the main draw if there are three more withdrawals. With quarantine rules in place in many countries and a lack of clarity on whether players may have to isolate themselves after going back to their respective countries after visiting the US, it's likely that the 30-year-old may get in. Even though the men's tour is beginning in the next two weeks, Prajnesh has decided to focus only on getting to the Majors as of now. "Just US Open and French Open for now." While the former is scheduled to begin on August 31, the latter is slated to start from September 28.

EXPRESS READ

Mandeep sixth hockey player to test Covid positive

CHENNAI: Mandeep Singh became the sixth Indian hockey player to test positive for Covid-19. The Karnataka government informed the player that he had returned a positive test. "Mandeep Singh, a member of the Indian men's hockey team, who was given the Covid test (RT PCR) along with 20 other players at the camp at SAI's National Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, has tested Covid positive, but is asymptomatic," a SAI press release said. The others, skipper Manpreet Singh, Jaskaran Singh, Varun Kumar, Krishan Pathak and Surender Kumar, are mildly symptomatic but are doing well.

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA
4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 041,
Ph: 080-26961928, Fax: 080-26961929
No.RGU/PROC/Stationery/75/2020-21 Dated:10.08.2020

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for **Supply of Different Types of Cartridges, Stationery Articles and Cleaning Materials for RGUHS.** More details on the Services are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.
(1) Tender document available for download: **07.08.2020, 16.49 Hrs. (2)** Pre-bid meeting: **25.08.2020 11.00 Hrs. (3)** Last date for receipt of Tender: **08.09.2020, 17.30 Hrs. (4)** Opening of Technical Bid:**10.09.2020, 11.00 Hrs. (5)** Place of Opening of Tender: **Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. More details can be fetched from https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Registrar, RGUHS, Bengaluru

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, MALUR
Ph: 08151-232239
No.: APMC/M/178/2020-21 Dated: 30.07.2020

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement)

Competitive E-Tenders are invited as per KW-3 in e-Tender Website: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by PWD Contractors for the Construction Work of Shop Cum Godown, Toilet Block & R.O. Unit in Main Market Yard of Malur APMC. Amount put to tender: **Rs.94,00,000/-,** EMD: **Rs.1,88,000/-** & period of completion: **04 months.** Last date of receipt of tenders: **02.09.2020 up to 5.00 p.m.** Open date of tenders: **04.09.2020 up to 5.00 p.m.**
Terms and conditions and other information obtained from APMC office or from the above mentioned website.
Sd/- (Shilpa B Havali) Secretary A.P.M.C, Malur **Sd/- (Srinivasareddy) Chairman A.P.M.C, Malur**

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NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-NIT) TENDER NO.: B&R / HO / NHM / 51186 / HARRAWALA / CW / EPC-NIT / 01
Online Lumpsum Rate Bid(s) / Offer(s) in Two part bid system are invited from Reputed, Resourceful and Experienced Parties meeting prescribed QUALIFYING CRITERIA for the work of "DETAILED DESIGN, ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF 300 BEDDED HOSPITAL AT HARRAWALA, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND FOR NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION (NHM), UTTARAKHAND ON EPC CONTRACT BASIS ; SUB-HEAD : Civil Work including Electrical work, Sanitary & Plumbing, Water Supply, Sewage, HVAC, Fire-Fighting including Fire Protection, Lift, STP, ETP, MGPS and other Allied Works etc."
Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to https://eprocure.gov.in.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's website: www.bridgeroof.co.in and CPP portal : https://eprocure.gov.in only.
THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF OFFER(S) : ON OR BEFORE 31.08.2020.

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E-mail Address: purchase.hamul@gmail.com
IFT NO.HCMU/PUR/ EPROC /2421/2020- 21 DATE: 31/07/2020
INVITATION FOR E TENDER (IFT) (RE CALL) TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER
HAMUL invites Short Term (Re call) E-Procurement tender for **1) Supply of Ingradients for Ice Cream Plant:** details available in e portal **2) Quantity & EMD amount :** as per bid notification available in e-portal. **3) Last date for submission of tender:** 18.08.2020. up to 5.00 PM. **4) Technical bid opening :** 20.08.2020 at 3.00 PM. **5) Address for communication :** Assistant Manager (Pur) at the above address. 6) Tender document may be downloaded from website https:// eproc.karnataka.gov.in/. KMF/2020-21/IND8314/CALL-2
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028, CIN- L13100TG1958G0I001674
CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT
e-Tender Notification
Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/NISP/1008/STP/2020/226 dated: 11.08.2020
MSTC Ref. No.: NMDC / HO / 33 / 2020-21 / ET / 376
E-tenders in three bid systems are invited for the work of **"Design, supplying, installing, testing & commissioning of 1000 KLD STP based on MBBR Technology including RCC Civil Building & AMC for 2 years for NISP, Nagarnar (Near Jagdalpur) Dist: Bastar, Chhattisgarh"** on item rate basis from prospective domestic, experienced, qualified and eligible bidders who fulfill the Pre-Qualification Criteria.
Detailed SOT/NIT and tender document including pre-qualification requirements can be viewed/downloaded from NMDC's website **http://www.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender/default.aspx.**, CPP Portal: **www.eprocure.gov.in** on latest active tenders and MSTC Website: **http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp** from **11.08.2020 to 09.09.2020**
The tenderers are required to visit the above mentioned websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.
For further clarification, GM (Contracts), NMDC Ltd., Hyderabad can be contacted on Fax no. **040-2353 4746**, email: **contracts@nmdc.co.in**.
General Manager (Contracts)
हर एक काम देश के नाम इस्पाती इरादा

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S FEDERATION LIMITED
UNIT: CATTLE FEED PLANT, HASSAN-573201
e-mail: kmfcfphsnpur@yahoo.com; Phone: 08172-243171, 243080; Fax: 243172
No . KMF/CFP-H/PUR/20-21 11.08.2020
Short Term e-Tender Notification
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
1) The Karnataka Co-operative Milk Producer's Federation Limited Invited e-tenders from reputed Government/Private Manufacturers/Suppliers for the **supply of 100MT Industrial Grade Urea to KMF Cattle Feed Plant Hassan,** Hassan District.
2) Bidders can download and submit their bid through the e-procurement portal **https://eporc.karnataka.gov.in** of government of karnataka

In e-procurement port choose Department as	Karnataka Co- operative Milk producer's Federation Ltd
EMD RS.	RS. 60,000=00
Commencement of online bid submission from Date	11.08.2020 at 17:30:00 Hours
Last Date for online bid submission	25.08.2020 at 17:30:00 Hours
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	26.08.2020 at 10:00:00 Hours
Opening of Financial bid	As in e-procurement port

For Kmf cattle feed plant-Hassan
GENERAL MANAGER

Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation
Traffic Commercial Department, Central Office, 2nd Floor, K H Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru.
No. BMTC: CO: TR: COM:1253:2020-21 Dated: 07.08.2020
Tender/Negotiation Notification No: 06/2020-21 (e-Procurement Platform)
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers / bids without ELF from the interested persons on monthly license fee basis for running **General Stalls / Refreshment Room / Parking Lot / Commercial / Office spaces** at **Yalahanka 5th Phase, Yalahanka New Town, Basaveshwaranagar, Kumarswamy Layout, Bannerghatta, Malleshwaram, KBS, Hesaraghatta, Jeevanbheemanagar, Singapur, Jigani, Shanthinagar, Nagarbhavi, Yalahanka Old Town, Vidyaranyapura, Channammanakere Acchukattu, Domlur, Kadugodi, Kengeri TTMC, Mallasandra, N R Colony, Yashwanthpura, Bidadi, Isro Layout, Hosakote, BTM Layout, Kengeri Satellite Town, Hosakerehalli, Rajarajeshwarinagar and Whitefield Bus Stations** and invites bids from Banks for grant of license for **Installation / erection of ATM Counters and for allotment of 2 BHK flats at Ebony St. Johns Woods Apartment at Koramangala (Tavarekere Road) for residential purpose**. Last date & time for submission of bids is on **26.08.2020** upto **12:00 hrs.** Opening of Financial bids is on **28.08.2020** at **12:30 hrs.** and also invites offers/bids from the interested individuals/agency/ company/ firm through e-procurement platform for grant of License to run and maintain Commercial / Office space available at the newly constructed BTM Layout bus station complexes under "as is where is basis" condition for a period of 12 years. There will be 10% annual escalation on license fee every year. The security deposit is equivalent to six months rentals. The selected bidder is permitted to sublet the allotted premises. Last date & time for submission of bids is on **26.08.2020** upto **12:00 hrs.** Opening of Technical bids is on **28.08.2020** at **12:30 hrs.** Opening of Financial bids is on **04.09.2020** at **12:30 hrs.** Details for EMD, license period & area log on to: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact Nos: **080-23010900; 23010901; 22371090; 22340060; 22340948** or **7760991026** & **7760997519**. E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com**
Sd/-,
Chief Traffic Manager (Com)
(Tender inviting Authority)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.: CEE/BGKT/TRNS/SEE(O)/AEE-1/5332-39 Date: 07.08.2020
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Through e-Procurement Portal
KPTCL invites tender on Electronic mode for the following works on **Partial Turnkey basis.**
(1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-304/2020-21/ESALE. "Providing additional 1x10 MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 220 kV ESALE sub-station in Sirsi Taluk, Uttara Kannada District including supply of equipments/ materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning on Partial Turn Key Basis". (Tender No: KPTCL/2020-21/SS/WORK_INDENT7062). The tenders will be received through e-Procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-Procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **"https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in"** on hyperlink "e-Procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.00 Hrs IST of 11.08.2020.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Bagalkot.

IF I HAVE SEEN FURTHER THAN OTHERS, IT IS BY STANDING UPON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS › ISAAC NEWTON
QuoteExpress

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ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ (STRR) ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಆಯುಕ್ತರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಎ., ನಂ.1, ಆಲಿ ಆಸ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 052
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22263479
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : STRRPA/TP/CLU/43/2019-20 **ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ** ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.08.2020
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು **"ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ"** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **"ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ"** ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತವೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 15 ದಿವಸಗಳೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ (STRR) ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ವಿಳಾಸ	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಎ-ಗುಂ	ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮಹಾ ಯೋಜನೆ ಯಂತೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1.	ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಜಯಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ಜೈನ್ ಕೋಂ ಅನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸಿ. ಜೈನ್	ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ	ಕುಂದಾಣ	ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ	24/1	01-01	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ

ಷರಾ : ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಪ್ರಶ್ನಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಪರಿಸರದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಸಜ್ಜಿತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ರಚಿಸುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಇದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಡಗಿದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು **"ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ"** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **"ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ"** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/-
ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು
ಉಪನಗರ ವರ್ತುಲ ರಸ್ತೆ (STRR) ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ,
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಯೋಜಕರು ಹಾಗೂ
ನ.ಗ್ರಾಯೋ. ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಬೆಂ.ಮ.ಪ್ರ.ಪ್ರಾ.
ವಾಣಿಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಬೆಂ.ಪ/ಚೆಎ/2020-21

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The Chief Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore invites on behalf of the President of India, online Expression of Interest tender from experienced EPC Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

Tender Reference No.	BARC/SMF/CFMF/EPC/2020/1
Name of work	Expression of Interest Cum pre qualification for setting up of Polymerization, Utility, HVAC, ETP and other associated systems of Process Facility at SMF project site, Challakere, Chitradurga Dt, karnataka
Estimated Cost	75 Crores (Rupees Seventy Five Crores only)
Period of Completion	Twenty Four (24)Months
Tender Sale Period	**12.08.2020 (11:00 Hrs.) to 30.08.2020 upto 15.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site **www.tenderwizard.com/dae**
Chief Engineer
For & on behalf of President of India

The emergencies chief for the WHO said that Covid-19 doesn't seem to follow the seasonal patterns that some viruses exhibit, making it harder to control. Unlike the respiratory viruses like influenza that spread in the winter, the pandemic is accelerating in the summer.

Aerial view of oil leak from a bulk carrier ship that ran aground off the southeast coast of Mauritius | AFP

EXFILE

RACE AGAINST TIME

Salvage crews are working round the clock to prevent a second disastrous oil spill off the picture-perfect coastline of Mauritius, with a damaged tanker carrying thousands of tonnes of fuel at risk of splitting apart. A look at the ecological damage...

WHAT HAPPENED

The bulk carrier MV Wakashio ran aground on July 25 with 4,000 tonnes of fuel aboard and began seeping oil last week, staining coral reefs, mangrove forests and tranquil lagoons in an unprecedented environmental catastrophe for the archipelago nation.

More than 1,000 tonnes has already oozed from the ship, its Japanese operator says, causing untold ecological damage to protected marine parks and fishing grounds that form the backbone of Mauritius' economy.

STRONG WINDS DELAY WORK

Fuel was being airlifted Monday by helicopter to the shore, but efforts to pump more from the hold were being thwarted by rough seas and strong winds. The weather, which is also fanning the oil slick further up the coast, is not forecast to improve until Monday evening.

FRESH CRACKS IDENTIFIED

Some fuel has been removed but 2,500 tonnes still remain aboard. Divers have reported fresh cracks in the hull, while creaking sounds from the vessel could be heard from the southeast shore, where a major clean-up operation is underway.

1
An estimated 1 tonnes of oil from the Japanese ship's cargo of 4 tonnes has escaped into the sea.

400
Around 400 sea booms have been deployed to try to contain the spill.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth has declared a state of emergency and appealed for international help. He said the spill "represents a danger" for the country.

MEASURES TAKEN

- People have created long floating oil booms to try to slow the spread onto the coast.
- The hastily made fabric booms are stuffed with sugar cane leaves and straw and kept afloat with plastic bottles.
- People are also using empty oil drums to scoop up as much oil as possible from shallower waters.

This is no longer a threat to our environment, it is a full-blown ecological disaster that has affected one of the most environmentally important parts of Mauritius, the Mahebourg Lagoon.

Sunil Dowarkasing, environment consultant

GRADUATE JOBS SHRINK DURING PANDEMIC

Youngsters with new professional qualifications struggle to enter workforce as virus outbreak pushes global economy to recession

UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS

LONDON: British fashion school graduate Phoebe St Leger's dream of landing a job at a design label is on hold. Like many others in the global Class of 2020, the pandemic is clouding her career ambitions.

The coronavirus forced the cancellation of her university graduating class's final-year fashion show, removing the chance to show her knitwear collection to people in the industry, some of whom might have liked her work enough to offer her a job.

Instead, St Leger, 22, returned to her family home in Winchester, and submitted her classwork online. She has applied for about 40 jobs and received only rejections.

"All the jobs have all dried up — everywhere," she said. She knows graduates from previous years who have been fired or furloughed and is prepared to get a job at a bar. "It's still hard to be hopeful when you're not seeing anyone doing well at the moment."

Around the world, young people armed with new degrees, diplomas and professional qualifications are struggling to enter the workforce as the pandemic pushes the global economy into recession. Covid-19 has thwarted hopes of landing first jobs — important for jumpstarting careers — as employers cut back graduate recruiting plans or even revoke job offers.

The latest US job numbers Friday underscored the murky outlook: 1.8 million jobs were added in July, a sharp slowdown in employment growth from the month before. It means the world's biggest economy has regained just 42 per cent of jobs lost to the virus.

US careers website Glassdoor says the number of jobs advertised as 'entry level' or 'new grad' was down 68 per cent in May from a year ago. In Britain, companies plan to cut student recruitment by 23 per cent this year, according to a survey of 179 businesses by the Institute of Student Employers.

The wave of delayed employment will ripple out through the economy, says Brian Kropp, chief of HR research at consultancy Gartner. Many grads will have student loan debts they won't be able to start paying off until they find a job, he said.

All the jobs have dried up — everywhere. It's still hard to be hopeful when you're not seeing anyone doing well at the moment.

Phoebe St Leger, British fashion school graduate

"If you can't get an entry level job, that means that you don't move out of your parent's house, you don't develop real work experience, you don't buy first home until later, and you don't get married until later."

Michael Welch, 22, has been scouring LinkedIn, Monster and Indeed for postings and connections after earning a University of Connecticut engineering degree. He hadn't planned to start his job search until after graduation.

Welch, who moved back home with his parents, worries about online interviews and starting a job remotely. "Remote jobs are great for someone who doesn't have to commute and already has a job," he said. "But for someone entering the market it is a scary prospect."

One important long-term effect for young graduates who take longer to find good first jobs is lower pay over the course of their careers. Someone who takes a year or more to find their first job lags behind their peers when it comes to promotions and also competes with younger people who come on to the job market later.

The problem, like the pandemic, is global. Graduate job vacancies for July are down from the previous year in 10 countries, according to *Adzuna*, a job postings search engine.

Britain, India and the Netherlands have seen the biggest declines, with postings down by more than half from a year ago, but other countries including Austria, Australia, Brazil, and France are also seeing double digit percentage drops. Graduate jobs are expected to shrink in 21 countries, with most unlikely to recover next year, according to a separate report by Britain's ISE.

Volcano in Indonesia spews huge ash cloud

FURY OF LAVA

MEDAN (INDONESIA): Rumbling Mount Sinabung on Indonesia's Sumatra island erupted on Monday, sending a column of volcanic materials as high as 5,000 metres into the sky. There were no fatalities or injuries from the morning eruption, Indonesia's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Centre said.

Villagers are advised to stay five kilometres from the crater's mouth and should be aware of the peril of lava, the agency said. Nearly 30,000 people have been forced to leave homes around the mountain in the past few years.

A thick layer of ash covered several villages up to 20 km from the crater, said Armen Putra, an official at the Sinabung observation post.

The volcano, one of two currently erupting in Indonesia, was dormant for four centuries before exploding in 2010, killing two. Another eruption in 2014 killed 16 while seven died in 2016. Sinabung is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

New Zealand set to open travel bubble

QUARANTINE-FREE

The Cook Islands in New Zealand was declared virus-free in mid-April

WELLINGTON: New Zealand plans to open a virus-free "travel bubble" with the tiny Pacific realm of Cook Islands before year's end, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday, while expressing caution about a similar arrangement with Australia.

Ardern said the quarantine-free travel corridor was possible because New Zealand and the Cooks — an archipelago of under 10,000 people — had successfully contained the coronavirus.

"Our expectation is that it would be in place before the end of the year," she told reporters, adding that officials were being careful not to move too quickly on the proposal. "The last thing anyone wants is to reopen travel, only to have it closed down again because it hasn't been done properly."

New Zealand has recorded only 22 coronavirus deaths in a population of five million, and marked 100 days since its last case of community transmission on Sunday, while the Cooks declared itself virus-free in mid-April.

The economic benefits of the travel bubble are expected to be felt mostly in the Cooks, a popular tourist destination where Ardern estimated 60 percent of pre-virus visitors were from New Zealand.

A trans-Tasman bubble with Australia would be far advantageous to New Zealand's economy, where international tourism screeched to a halt when borders were closed in March.

The prospect looked tantalisingly close a few months ago, before Australia was hit with a second wave of infections centred on Victoria state. "We're still undertaking the foundational work for trans-Tasman travel arrangements but obviously that's going to be sometime off," Ardern said.

KOREA FLOODS LEAVE ANIMALS ON ROOFTOPS

MORE MISERY

SEOUL: Dozens of cows were stranded on rooftops by floods in South Korea, leaving rescue crews facing a problem the size of several bovines. The cattle floated upwards as floodwaters mounted at the weekend in Gurye, a farming town in the country's south, and scrambled to safety on the roofs of several houses and other buildings.

When the deluge receded, the animals found themselves stranded high and somewhat damp, and on the horns of a dilemma with no way to get down. Pictures showed as many as nine of them standing on one battered rooftop, looking mildly non-plussed.

"The cows were swimming as the water level surged and made their way up onto the roof and stayed there even after the floodwaters subsided," one resident said.

Rescuers brought in a crane and lowered the cattle one by one from the rooftops, hoisting them onto a sling. But while the cows eventually did come home, many were showing symptoms of pneumonia.

FACT OF THE MATTER

VR games boost memory

UNEXPECTED GAIN

A new study has said that those playing a virtual reality (VR)-based game can develop higher navigational efficiency and less disorientation than those playing a non-VR immersive version. The study, in the *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking*, said that navigation in VR can be overwhelming for its users. Spatial memory is a cognitive process that enables a person to remember different locations and spatial relations between objects. Instead of traditional free movement, node-based movement can be used in VR games. In this systems, players navigate by jumping to set locations. It is similar to hypertext navigation.

Cookers can sanitise masks

DRY HEAT

Fifty minutes of dry heat in an electric cooker, such as a rice cooker or instant pot, could effectively sanitise N95 respirator masks, while maintaining their filtration and fit, researchers, including one of Indian origin, have found. According to the findings in *Environmental Science and Technology Letters*, this could enable wearers to safely reuse limited supplies of the respirators, originally intended to be one-time-use items. N95 respirator masks are the gold standard of personal protective equipment that protect the wearer against airborne droplets and particles, such as the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

FAR FROM STAGNANT AIR

Education institutions mull outdoor classes amid virus

VENTILATION WORRY

NEW YORK: It has been seven years since the central air conditioning system worked at the New York City middle school where Lisa Fitzgerald O'Connor teaches. As a new school year approaches amid the coronavirus pandemic, she and her colleagues are threatening not to return unless it's repaired.

Her classroom has a window air conditioning unit, but she fears the stagnant air will increase the chances that an infected student could spread the coronavirus. "Window units just aren't going to cut it. We don't want to stay cool, we just want the air to flow properly," said O'Connor, a science teacher who has worked at the Patria Mirabal School in Manhattan since 2009. "We are really super stressed out about it."

Schools around the country are facing similar problems as they plan or contemplate reopening this fall, dealing with aging air conditioning, heating and circulation systems that don't work well or at all because maintenance and replacement were deferred due to tight budgets. Concerns about school infrastructure are adding momentum to plans in some districts, even in colder climates, to take classes outdoors for the sake of student and teacher health.

Nationwide, an estimated 41 per cent of school districts need to update or replace their heating, ventilation and cooling systems in at least half their schools, according to a federal report issued in June.

There is no evidence that the disease can spread through ventilation systems from one classroom to the next, according to Dr. Edward Nardell, a Harvard Medical School professor who specializes in airborne diseases. The danger, Nardell said, is from ineffective systems that don't remove floating viruses and let them linger in classrooms after they are expelled in an infected person's breath, sneeze or cough.

"Most schools are designed for comfort, not for infection control. So there is a danger that if you put 20 kids in a room, that if one of them has asymptomatic Covid and is infectious, you now have 19 more kids who are exposed," Nardell said. Healthy children almost always recover from Covid, if they become ill at all, but they can pass the disease to teachers, parents and other adults.

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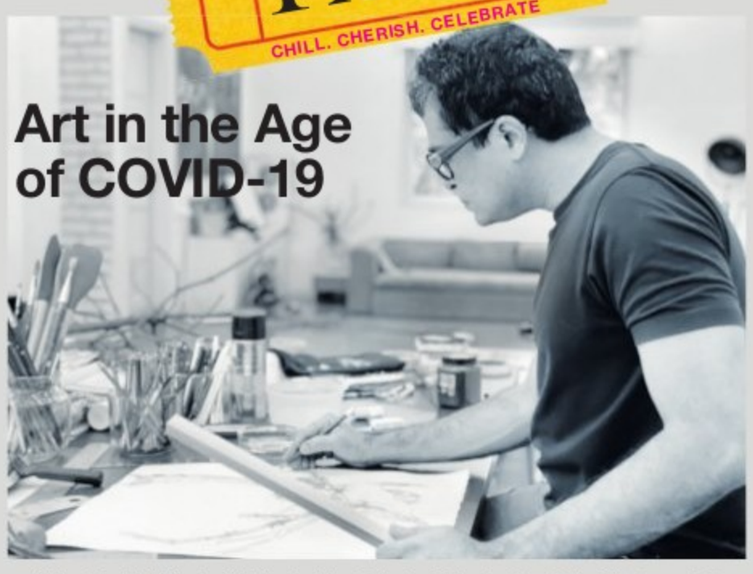

ART IN THE AGE OF COVID-19

JITISH KALLAT
Artist

IN CONVERSATION WITH
KAVEREE BAMZAI
Author and Journalist

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 8 PM

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11.08.2020
TUESDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Creating history

Abhinav Bindra wins men's 10m air rifle at the Beijing Olympics on this day in 2008. This was India's first ever individual Olympic gold

PITTED AGAINST THE BEST

Bindra, who was then ranked 17th in the world, won the gold by scoring a 10.8 against Athens Olympics champion Zhu Qinan's (China) 10.5 and Finland's Hen-ri Hakkinen's 9.7

AWARDS APLENTY

Besides the many medals in international sporting events, he was presented with the Arjuna award, Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award and the Padma Bhushan

POST-RETIREMENT

He runs the Abhinav Bindra Foundation in Chandigarh and Abhinav Bindra Target Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar to further Olympics sports training

Darshan completes 23 years in Sandalwood

PG 4

PRESCRIBING POSITIVITY

As fear of the virus gets more rampant than the disease itself, these Covid-19 survivors tell us how they dealt with the ordeal

• **Simran Ahuja**

As the number of positive Covid-19 cases continues to increase in the city, so does the realisation that the virus has truly arrived at our doorsteps. Fear seems to be more contagious than the infection itself, having even mutated into a strong stigma, with some heart-wrenching stories of people even ending their life over the virus. While the mortality rate is a concern, Covid can be coped with successfully as well, with recoveries even outnumbering the number of cases on some days. "Sometimes, the unknown is harder to deal with. When I got the virus, I wasn't so scared and was able to remain calm as well," says Lokesh Sanghi, who recently recovered from the virus. Still unsure about where exactly he contracted it, the 23-year-old now looks at the experience as a turning point in his life. "I want to look after myself better – that means eating and sleeping well, and working out more," says the BBA student.

The experience, however, did come with its share of tough moments. With mild symptoms like fever, back pain and headache, and eventually loss of smell and taste, Sanghi opted for home quarantine. "Initially, my family members and I thought it was just a normal viral fever because I'm prone to it. But once it was diagnosed to be Covid, there were suddenly so many precautions and distance norms in place. It does make you feel like an outcast in your own home," he says.

In fact, in many cases, it isn't so much the virus itself but the reaction it induces in others that leaves one feeling burdened. Take, for instance, Sunitha Giridhar, who was on the receiving end of various taunts and comments when her husband tested positive in June. "When my husband was transferred to a hospital, the apartment wouldn't let me dispose our garbage either. I had to leave it at home for five days before I finally reached out to a social service helpline to step in," says Sunitha, adding, "I know they were reacting out of fear, but it hurt a lot to hear them make comments or see others in my apartment move out temporarily because of us. Though temporary, we learnt to handle it and come out better on the other side."

Now having recovered, Giridhar MP shares that despite an initial hiccup with non-availability of beds, his stint at the hospital was smooth sailing. "The bigger tension was finding an ambulance to take me to a hospital. But once I arrived, things were normal. Beds were placed 7-8 feet apart and someone would check our BP, blood oxygen levels and temperature at least thrice a day," says Giridhar, who is now back to running his cycle shop at Chikpet.

And while the older population has more to worry about, 56-year-old Hasmukh Mardia looked at his tryst with the virus as no different than anything else in his life. Truly living up to his name, he says, "Positive thinking is the best way to deal with being Covid-positive." Still unsure of where the hours went, Mardia recalls spending his time – four day of home quarantine and eight days spent at a hospital on endless phone calls with friends and family. "I made the other patients in the hospital also tension-free," laughs Hasmukh, who recently also donated his plasma. He has only one message to give to others. "Joh dar gaya, woh mar gaya (the one who gets scared is the one who loses life). There is nothing to worry. So many people have got the virus and don't even know about it."

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Sometimes, the unknown is harder to deal with. When I got the virus, I wasn't so scared and was able to remain calm as well
—**Lokesh Sanghi,** BBA student

The bigger tension was finding an ambulance to take me to a hospital. But once I arrived, things were normal
—**Giridhar MP,** businessman

Sholay was dubbed the end of Bollywood: Ramesh Sippy

• **Express Features**

Not all films are accorded the status of being iconic, but Ramesh Sippy's *Sholay*, that recently completed its 45th anniversary, passes all tests of enduring greatness. In the latest edition of Time Pass, a series of webinars organised by TNIE group, he walked down memory lane, as he fielded questions from TNIE's Entertainment Editor Sudhir Srinivasan and senior journalist Kaveree Bamzai.

Touching upon the shooting locations, Ramesh said, "We wanted to break away from the usual look in dacoit films. Through art director Achrekar, we found Ramgarh in and around Bengaluru. We built no set for it, and scenes were shot largely outdoors." He went on to correct some urban legends, rubbishing the belief that it didn't set cash registers ablaze upon release. "When we started, Amitabh wasn't a star, but when we finished it, *Zanjeer* and *Deewar* were out. The advance bookings were fantastic." He denied that he had thought of changing the ending. "I wanted to show Gabbar's death but the censors didn't want police being shown to take law into their hands. Remember, it was the Emergency time. Then, of course, there was the noise over Amitabh's death."

Sholay was panned by critics at that time. "They dubbed it the end of Bollywood. How could we make such an expensive film with such themes? It took them seven weeks to admit the mistake." But still, no one might have expected it to reach where it did. "You can put in your best efforts, make it technically polished, and get the best out of actors. But a phenomenon happens when all this blends in a way that can't be planned on paper." *Sholay* set the template for masala cinema. Some tropes though, like Basanti's chatter defining a generation of heroine roles, haven't been beneficial. Ramesh said that it's natural for filmmakers to take inspiration. "But I wish they wouldn't take caricatures of the original. I wish they would understand the essence of strong characters like Basanti."

How does he see the nepotism debate? "Look at people like Bachchan. There are advantages of being part of the cinema family. It may help when you start out, but to actually be something, it's about talent and how you take it forward." Talking about Sushant Singh Rajput's demise, he said, "It is a controversy as there is an emotional angle attached to it. He was a fine actor, and his death is lamented. It is unfair to talk about it."

Will *Sholay* get a sequel or prequel? "I was firm that *Sholay* was so entrenched in people's minds that it wouldn't make sense. Why do I need a follow-up, when the original is being discussed 45 years after release?"

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QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

ACHARI BAINGAN

INGREDIENTS

- **Brinjal:** 3
- **Garlic and green chilli paste:** 1 tsp
- **North Indian achar masala:** 2 tsp
- **Turmeric:** 1/2 tsp
- **Chilli powder:** 1 tsp
- **Salt** to taste

For North Indian achar masala

- **Black cumin seeds:** 1 tsp
- **Fennel seeds:** 1 tsp
- **Fenugreek seeds:** a pinch

METHOD

- Roast and powder the ingredients for achar masala.
- Slice brinjals to 1/4-inch length.
- Wash and marinate by mixing the pieces with all the ingredients.
- Keep aside for 30 minutes.
- Add a sprig of curry leaf.
- Shallow fry in a non-stick tawa.
- Serve with a dash of lemon juice.
- Goes well with chapatis and rice.

– by Sashikala Vijayan, Thiruvananthapuram

SPACE WATCH

AUGUST METEOR SHOWER

The Perseids are one of the brighter meteor showers of the year. They occur every year between July 17 and August 24 and tend to peak around August 12-13. Made of tiny space debris from the comet Swift-Tuttle, the Perseids are named after the constellation Perseus. This is because the direction, or radiant, from which the shower seems to come in the sky lies in the same direction as Perseus. The Perseids are widely sought after by astronomers and stargazers because most years at its peak, one can see 60 to 100 meteors in an hour from a dark place.

Source: timeanddate.com

BRIGHT SPOT

SENIORS CAN 'TECH' IT EASY

A cancelled internship turned into a big opportunity for Lia Rubel from Vermont, to help her whole state. The Emory University student was gearing up for the summer when COVID-19 ruined her plans. That's when she got a call from a friend about a new initiative organised by some Yale University students – Telehealth Access for Seniors – to get communications technology, such as a smartphone or tablet computer, to elderly patients who lack and very much need it. Rubel joined the initiative in March as the lead from Vermont. Many people don't have access to tele-services for lack of technology, and the problem is worse in Vermont, where about 19 per cent of the population is over 65 years of age and where 10 per cent of residents don't have access to broadband. Since March, Telehealth Access for Seniors has expanded to over 50 volunteers in 26 states and they've raised an estimated $38,000 and donated 825 devices. In Vermont alone, Rubel has helped collect about 50 devices and $800.

APPSMART

Pepi Hospital

Step into a PEPI HOSPITAL and become a doctor, patient or just a curious explorer. The game offers a vast medical center with tons of items, activities, and ways to play.
Available on: Android

edX

Founded by Harvard University and MIT, edX is home to more than 20 million learners, offering 2000+ online courses.
Available on: Android

PlantNet

It's nice to have a botanist on hand. This app allows you to identify plants simply by photographing them with your smartphone.
Available on: Android & iOS

SOUND BOARD

THE MICHELLE OBAMA PODCAST

The podcast features the former First Lady diving deep into conversations with loved ones – family, friends, and colleagues – on the relationships in the lives that make us who we are.

- On Spotify

ON PURPOSE WITH SHETTY

British author Jay Shetty's purpose is to make wisdom go viral. The podcast features fascinating conversations with insightful people discussing topics ranging from mental health to personal development.

- On Spotify

THINK FAST, TALK SMART: COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES

Communication is critical to success in business and in life. Join Matt Abrahams, a lecturer of strategic communication at Stanford Graduate School of Business, as he discusses real-world challenges with experts.

- On Apple Podcast

EVERYTHING IS ALIVE

Everything is Alive is an unscripted interview show in which all the subjects are inanimate objects. In each episode, a different thing tells us its life story – and everything is true.

- On Apple Podcast

PESUVOM TAMIL PODCAST

A Tamil podcast aimed at spreading knowledge about science, technology, economics, politics, sport, etc.

- On Google Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

POWER

A politician slips into coma after being attacked by criminals. He wakes up several years later to find his son having taken up his responsibilities. However, things are not what they seem to be.

- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Trisha

HUDUGARU

Three youngsters sharing a common career goal find themselves entangled in the problems of two star-crossed lovers. Their lives take a dramatic turn when they try helping the couple.

- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Yogesh, Srinagar Kitty

GANDEDHE

Krishna is a poor college boy who falls in love with Nandini. The problem is that she is the daughter of a rich landlord, Shankare Gowda and he does not approve of the match. Krishna sets out to prove his worth.

- Cast: Chiranjeevi Sarja, Ragini Dwivedi

DHARMATHIN THALAIVAN

When Raju loses his soft-spoken, loving elder brother Balu in a fight, he gives up his violent ways. However, his life changes for the better when he meets his brother's lookalike, who is a criminal.

- Cast: Rajnikanth, Prabhu, Suhasini Maniratnam

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHAT DO ALL LANGUAGES HAVE IN COMMON? BY CAMERON MORIN

Language is endlessly variable. Each of us can come up with an infinite number of sentences in our native language, and we're able to do so from an early age. How is this possible? Cameron Morin details Noam Chomsky's theory of universal grammar.

2 THE INCREDIBLE COLLABORATION BEHIND THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION BY TIEN NGUYEN

The International Space Station is roughly the size of a six-bedroom house and weighs more than 320 cars. Tien Nguyen explains how it was assembled piece by piece while hurtling through space.

3 EXPLORE CAVE PAINTINGS IN THIS 360° ANIMATED CAVE BY ISEULT GILLESPIE

The paintings of our ancestors have been preserved in caves all over the world; the oldest we've found were made up to 40,000 years ago. What do these images tell us about the ancient human mind and the lives of their creators? Iseult Gillespie shares a brief history of cave paintings.

4 A FRIENDLY, AUTONOMOUS ROBOT THAT DELIVERS YOUR FOOD

Meet the friendly robot that could deliver your next burrito. Ali Kashani introduces us to Postmates' autonomous delivery robot and explains how it could help reduce carbon emissions and free up valuable real estate in cities everywhere. Learn more about how it was specially designed to navigate complex social interactions on busy sidewalks to bring you your food (and more) with joy.

5 THE LANGUAGE OF BEING HUMAN

You speak far more languages than you realise, says Poet Ali. In a profound talk, he reveals how the idea of "language" goes far beyond a lexicon of words, communicating universal experiences like love, laughter and loneliness, and serving as a portal to cultures, feelings and thoughts that unite us all.

FIT BIT

JALANDHARA BANDHA

(THE CHIN LOCK)

In Sanskrit, 'jal' means 'throat', 'dharan' means 'stream', and 'bandha' means 'lock'. It is one of the energetic locks used in a Hatha yoga practice and has a powerful effect on the flow of Prana in the body. It is commonly used as part of pranayama. It can also be combined with the other two bandhas to create a Maha (great) bandha. It activates and energises the Visuddha (throat) chakra which aids in communication, freedom and self-expression.

STEPS

- Sit in a comfortable position like Siddhasana or Virasana.
- Keep the spine upright, lift the sternum and keep the front of the ribs lifted.
- Stretch the sides of the neck without strain. Move the shoulder blades into the body. Keeping the top part of the spine (thoracic and cervical spine) curving inwards.
- Slowly bend the head slightly forward, and downwards from the back of the neck, towards the front of the chest.
- Keep the neck and throat muscles soft and the neck, long.
- Bring the head down so that the the jawbone rests evenly in the notch between the collar-bones.
- Avoid forcing the chin to the chest, but aim to lift the chest to meet the descending chin.
- Keep the centre of head and chin in alignment with the middle of the sternum, the belly and perineum.
- Relax the temples; and keep the eyes and ears passive. This is Jalandhara Bandha. Hold it as long as comfortable.

BENEFITS

- Helps clear the nasal passages.
- Regulates the flow of blood and prana (energy) to the heart and the endocrine glands in the neck.
- Protects the brain, eyes, and inner ears from the internal pressure of the retained breath.
- Enhances blood circulation thereby improving the health of your spinal cord.
- Impacts the blood vessels that are located below the neck. You can slow down your heart rhythm and feel the stillness of your body by trying this posture.
- Improves thyroid functions and your capacity to focus.
- Beneficial for those who strain their vocal cords (speakers and singers).

LIMITATIONS

- Those with high or low blood pressure should avoid this.
- Those suffering from cervical spondylitis or any neck pain should avoid this.
- If you have intracranial pressure, vertigo or any heart disease, avoid this.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

AVANE SRIMANNARAYANA (Kannada)

In pursuit of solving a long-held mystery of Amaravati, Narayana - the quirky new cop in the town - has to get past a dreaded clan of dacoits and its fierce leader Jairam.

- Cast: Rakshit Shetty, Shanvi Srivastava, Achyuth Kumar
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

LAW (Kannada)

Nandhini, a law student who is caught in a precarious situation fights for justice for a gruesome crime that took place.

- Cast: Ragini Prajwal, Mukhyamantri Chandru, Sudharani
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

KURANGU BOMMAI (Tamil)

The lives of a local gangster, a desperate father, a cunning cab driver and an insomniac pickpocket intersect as they try to find an abandoned bag full of money.

- Cast: Vidharth, Bharathiraja, Elango Kumaravel
- Watch on: Zee 5
- Registration: ₹ 99 per month

DETECTIVE BYOMKESH BAKSHY (Hindi)

Byomkesh, fresh out of college, agrees to investigate the disappearance of Bhuvan, a chemist. Assisted by Bhuvan's son Ajit, Byomkesh links the case to a larger conspiracy that will unsettle Calcutta.

- Cast: Sushant Singh Rajput, Swastika Mukherjee, Divya Menon, Neeraj Kabi
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per year

6 MEZHUGUVARTHIGAL (Tamil)

Ram, a software engineer, lives with his wife Lizzy and son Gautham. Their lives are turned upside down when Gautham goes missing and Ram realises that he has been kidnapped by child traffickers.

- Cast: Poonam Kaur, Shaam, Sandra Amy
- Watch on: Zee 5
- Registration: ₹ 99 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

UPPU (Malayalam)

Moosa Meleri's daughter-in-law Amina is forced to divorce his son and marry their rich landlord. Twenty years later, she still leads a very discontent life.

- Cast: PT Kunju Muhammed, Valsala Menon, Sreeraman
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

PRESSURE COOKER (Telugu)

A new-age family drama about a young graduate under pressure from his father who expects him to go and settle in USA to be seen as successful.

- Cast: Preethi Asrani, Sai Ronak, Rahul Ramakrishnan, Keshav Deepak
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per year

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D (Series)

Agent Phil Coulson leads a team of highly skilled agents from the global law-enforcement organisation known as S.H.I.E.L.D. Together, they combat extraordinary and inexplicable threats.

- Cast: Chloe Bennet, Clark Gregg, Elizabeth Henstridge, Ming-Na Wen
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar
- Registration: ₹ 399 per year

LIAR LIAR

A successful lawyer's entire career is built on the basis of lies. His life takes an ugly turn when his son wishes for him to not lie for a day and his wish comes true.

- Cast: Jim Carrey, Justin Cooper, Jennifer Tilly, Maura Tierney
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per year

CONNECTED (Series)

Connected: The Hidden Science of Everything is a 2020 docuseries where journalist Latif Nasser is investigating ways in which we are connected to each other and the universe.

- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

ABSTRACT (Series)

An in-depth look into computer design and modern contemporary design with some of the world's most highly regarded designers.

- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

SOCIAL DISTANCING? DID WE HEAR IT RIGHT?

OPEN SPACE
Nirad Mudur
Senior Assistant Editor
niradmadur@newindianexpress.com

A social media spoof using scenes from a popular song sequence in the all-time favourite Hollywood movie, *The Sound Of Music*, perfectly captures that one emotion that emerges from the human mind over this raging pandemic – fear.

In that, resounding coughs replace the claps of thunder and the Von Trapp kids rush into Maria's arms every time cough is heard. The lyrics of the original song, These are a few of my favourite things, too are changed to adapt to the flavour of the pandemic, but the scene is the original one from the movie.

It is natural to fear a pandemic, but we seem to have taken it to the next level, and it is almost like we are back in the days when the ridiculous and preposterous 'untouchability' was practised. We are treating the infected and their family members, or even those suspected to be infected by Covid-19, as 'untouchables'.

Maintaining a safe distance from people, whether infected or not, is a safety measure to avoid getting infected or spreading a possible infection. But when we take up cudgels against them, blaming them for getting infected or facing the threat of infection, maligning them, or driving them into a corner to make them feel like villains of society, we are actually following 'social distancing'. We threaten social links and bonds by doing so. We hurt more than comfort, when the latter is the need of the hour.

We, in fact, are doing complete justice to the term 'social distancing', while 'physical distancing' – the more accurate term – is given a go-by.

In a recent interaction over an online platform, Prasanna Heggodu, renowned theatre director, playwright and social activist, lost his cool when one of the questions was about social distancing. He questioned the very usage of the word 'social distancing', which in our country has been practised for centuries, victimising entire populations belonging to certain caste denominations. Now, we seem to have taken to it like fish to water, that too with the government giving us the licence for it by encouraging more of it.

Questionable acts of sealing residential apartments where people have tested positive, blaming neighbours who have got infected with Covid-19 for area lockdowns and stigmatising them, blaming an entire community for the infection spreading in different areas after a congregation took place without following the safety norms, have only ended up ensuring more 'social' distancing.

This form of distancing has given rise to bitterness among people, riding on the fear of contracting the disease.

It is understandable that fear rules when lakhs of lives have been claimed by this disease, but Covid-19 is not the only cause for death. The pandemic notwithstanding, people continue to die daily due to various other diseases, due to accidents, heinous crimes and wars, and even due to negligence, as seen in Beirut last week.

The Kozhikode air disaster may be a perfect example of how a tragedy diminishes all man-made divisions. Soon after the news of the crash-landing spread, people converged on the area to take the injured to hospital, and children whose parents had perished or critically injured were looked after like their own until relatives arrived on the scene to take care of them. They helped, rescued, and ensured that a maximum number were brought to the hospital, ensuring their treatment and survival. Covid-19 was not on their minds, nor caste, creed or religion – only the thought of saving people and to help them survive.

Especially in times such as these, amidst a pandemic, we need to remember that there is a huge difference between being a mere human being and being human!

Illustration • Tapas Ranjan

Covid-19 may have dampened Krishna Janmashtami this year but the occasion doesn't have to be a lukewarm affair. City chefs help you whip up a sweet celebration with some easy-to-make dishes

SWEET CELEBRATIONS

• Express Features

Virtual pujas, no large gatherings and socially-distanced wishes. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we celebrate festivals. But while most of the regular customs have to be compromised on, the same doesn't have to be said for food. Since no festival is complete without a feast, we asked city chefs for some easy-to-make recipes that will make the day marking the birth of Krishna a sweet affair.

SABUDANA GULAB KI KHEER

INGREDIENTS

- **Fresh rose petal:** 200gm
- **Sabudana:** 50gm
- **Ghee:** 20gm
- **Mawa:** 15gm
- **Castor sugar:** 80gm
- **Cardamon:** 10gm
- **Cashewnut:** 15gm
- **Pistachio:** 15gm
- **Rose water:** 5ml
- **Milk:** 500 ml
- **Milkmaid:** 20 ml

METHOD

- Sauté nuts in ghee
- Add milk, Milkmaid, mawa, castor sugar and reduce the mixture on slow flame
- Add soaked sabudana, cardamom powder, rose water and rose petals
- Allow the rose petals and sabudana kheer to cool
- Garnish with rose petals and serve cold

Recipe: Kapil Dubey, Executive Chef, The Den Bengaluru

PANJIRI

INGREDIENTS

- **Atta:** 250gm
- **Ghee:** 150ml
- **Cardamom:** 5gm
- **Black pepper:** 1gm
- **Powder sugar:** 100gm
- **Dried fruits:** 50gm

METHOD

- Heat ghee in big kadhai
- Add atta gradually over a slow flame
- After 10-15 minutes of slow cooking, atta will turn brown
- Remove from heat and let it cool down to room temperature
- Add sugar, cardamom power and chopped dried fruits
- Can be stored up to seven days in airtight container

Recipe: Sougata Halder, executive chef, Aloft Bengaluru Cessna Business Park

MATHURA KE PEDE

INGREDIENTS

- **Cow milk mawa:** 250 gm
- **Green cardamom:** 5 (pounded and powdered)
- **Desi ghee:** 3 tbsp
- **Almond slivers:** 1 tbsp for garnish
- **Tagar (Boora sugar):** 200 gm
- **Grain sugar:** 250 gm
- **Water:** ½ cup
- **Desi ghee:** 1 tbsp

METHOD

- In a sauce pan, add sugar and water and heat till to make syrup. Reduce the flame to medium heat and stir the syrup till it reaches a single string consistency (without caramalisation)
- Add the ghee and stir till it thickens
- Remove from heat and continuously stir it, till it deforms from a thick frothy syrup to a thick mass and then to finely powdered soft sugar
- Crumble mawa and roast in a pan on medium heat. It must not become dry at any stage and to avoid the same keep adding 3 tbsp ghee at small intervals. If the mawa still becomes dry, add 1 tbsp milk (only if required)
- Stir till it becomes dark brown.
- Remove from flame. Add cardamom powder and 150 gm Tagar (reserve 50 gm for coating) while the mawa mix is still warm. Mix well till uniform
- Roll the mix into small balls and gently roll them up in reserved Tagar to lightly coat. Garnish with almond slivers. Enjoy them at room temperature

Recipe: Sandeep Kalra, Executive Chef, The Ritz-Carlton, Bangalore

MAKHANA KHEER

INGREDIENTS

- **Makhana:** 2cup
- **Milk:** 500 ml
- **Jaggery:** 150gm
- **Cashewnuts chopped:** 100gm
- **Green cardamom powder:** 2tsp
- **Saffron:** for garnish
- **Ghee:** 4tsp

METHOD

- Heat the pan with ghee, add makhana and fry it nicely till it gets crisp. Keep aside
- Blend one cup of roasted makhana to form powder
- Heat the pan with ghee, fry the dried nuts till it turns golden colour. Keep aside
- In a pot, boil the milk and add jaggery with cardamom powder
- Then add makhana powder, stir it well. Add whole roasted makhana
- Simmer for 10 minutes on a low to medium flame until makhana gets soft and the milk thickens a bit. Stir occasionally
- Garnish with fried cashewnuts and saffron (optional)
- Serve chilled or warm

Recipe: Yam Bahadur Thapa, Asian Sous Chef at Brigade Hospitality Services Limited

• Vidya Iyengar

Prevention with patriotism

A visit to Lalbagh flower show, brunches with Independence Day theme, and of course, watching the I-Day parade. While none of these may be possible this year due to the pandemic, you can mark the occasion with I- Day-themed masks. Launched by Gehna Manglani (21) and Nihal Manglani (26), who returned from New York and Melbourne, respectively, the new collection under the brand Doori includes masks for adults as well as children, priced at ₹450 for pack of three. While a pack for adults comprises three solid colours, that for kids has two printed ones, and one in a solid colour.

With people getting out of the house a lot more, but at the same time festivities being subdued, Gehna points out that the masks are meant to give a festive feel. While the initial idea was to make tri-coloured masks, some brain storming later, they felt it might not go down well with people's preferences. "So we decided we would create a collection which isn't too loud," says the student of Parsons School of Design, who plans to return to college in January.

Not sure how people will react, Nihal adds, "This is our pilot project and we are trying to do something different."

With mask makers mushrooming, the duo has also had to figure out how to stay ahead of the competition. "There's a new player coming up with something new every day. So it's important to stay up to date. Honestly, neither of us had anticipated the shape our initiative would take," says Gehna. In fact, actor Varun Dhawan recently posted a picture on social media, wearing a mask from their new range of blue masks.

Coming from a family involved in garment export, with a unit in Koramangala, has helped her in finding her feet. "At times, we need help with fabrics, colours and suggestions, and having a team to fall back on is comforting. I find the process therapeutic, and it's a learning experience," she says.

Going forward, the cousins plan to bring out masks for festive occasions, including the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi and Deepavali. "We are trying to find out how people dress, whether they would wear a shirt with cracker motif on them, to understand what their choice will be," Nihal says.

"Half way into the process, we realised that we were entering a tricky space. Some suggested designs of the flag or chakra, but we want to be respectful, while keeping aesthetics in place.

—Gehna Manglani, student

THE SEVEN JARS

LOVEOLOGY
Mahesh Natarajan

Among the stories that have been retold time and again by Indian spiritual teachers, one story that stands out is about the Yaksha and the seven jars. In some stories, this Yaksha was a wise teacher, while in others, a person of much mischief and even an evil magician, but the story is essentially similar – a person goes into the wilderness, away from their village or town, happens upon these seven jars of gold coins, and a magical voice offers that these are all theirs to have.

Very few in these stories can resist the offer of such bounty that seems to come with no strings attached. When they rush back home to their bewildered partner and together they find that the promised jars are very much there and as they open the jars one by one, they are overjoyed to find each brimming with the promised bounty. Six are as full as they can be, but the seventh is hardly full at all. Some stories have it as just about half-way, and others have it at much lesser, but they all agree in one aspect – the hapless couple then get caught up with worrying over how come this one jar is not full.

They fret and fume about it, bring whatever they have and try to get it as full as the others, but the jar never gets full. Whatever they do, they just can't fill it up. They forget about all the other full jars, and get so worked up about this one jar that is not full and make it their life's mission to make it full, but alas! They just cannot. In their pursuit of making this one jar full, they lose everything. Some stories talk about how they even sell everything they have in trying to do this, and others talk of how they empty the other full jars in trying to make this one come up to level, but the jar never gets full. The stories end with their utter penury, or with them wisening up and letting it be.

The story is often told as a metaphor for greed, but it can be read as a lot more.

In relationships, we often talk about different intimacies that the people in the relationship could look at – physical, sexual, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual and social. We could argue about the particular number, but let's keep with these seven for the purposes of this story.

Now, do you think we need to have all these intimacies in full measure to have a successful relationship? Can you really be happy if one of these intimacies just does not get filled, no matter what you try? Would not having satisfaction in one undo everything else that is there, and potentially destroy everything? Can a relationship survive and thrive with less than full intimacy across all these parameters?

The seven jars story applied to love reveals itself to be a lot more than a child's bedtime story, doesn't it?

(The writer is counsellor with InnerSight)

SMART ADS

JAYANAGAR
HOUSE FOR SALE
BDA 40x60 WF & EF 2BHK
2 Floors in 21st Main BDA
45x90 3 BHK in 17th Main
40 Ft Road, 50x75 WF Site
in 18th Main in 4th T Block
40x60 NF& SF in 7th Block
Jayanagar
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REQUIRED FOR GENUINE BUYERS / JOINT VENTURE / AGRICULTURAL / RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL LANDS AT DEVANAHALLI AIRPORT / SARJAPUR / WHITEFIELD / HOSAKOTE 1 TO 100 ACRES AND ABOVE (ONLY CLEAR TITLES)
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23 yrs on, Darshan's acting career goes strong

Fans celebrate the Challenging Star's milestone with a trending hashtag, while celebrities from Kannada film industry sport a common DP to mark the special occasion

A Sharadhaa

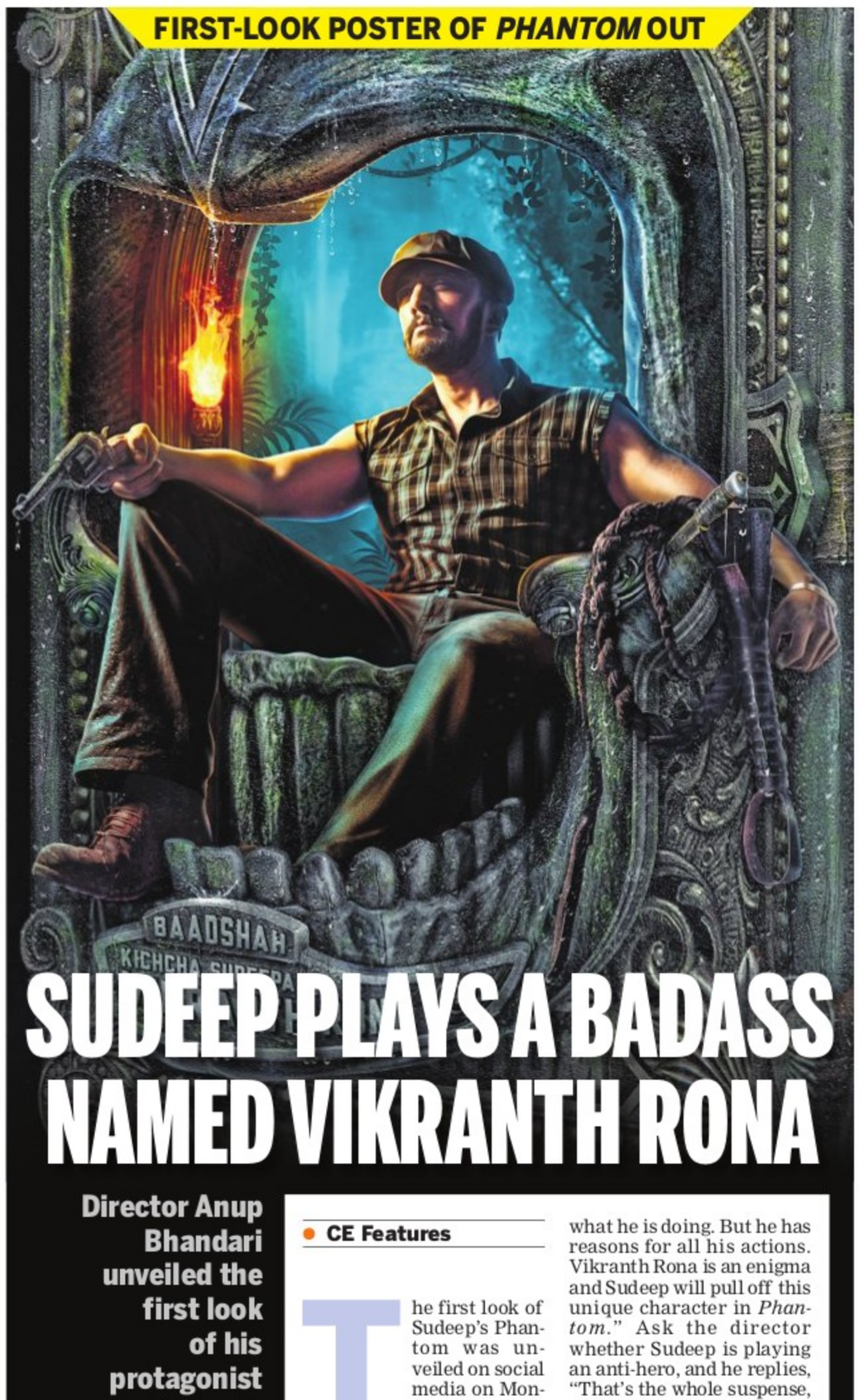
Darshan, popularly known as The Challenging Star of Sandalwood, completes 23 years in the Kannada film industry on August 11, and fans of the actor, who fondly address him as DBoss, are celebrating the occasion with enthusiasm. Joining them are industry colleagues of Darshan. Actors Prem, Prajwal Devaraj, and Abhishek Ambareesh took to their social media platforms to release a common display picture, showing a poster of his upcoming film, *Roberrt,* attached with the hashtag, 23yearsofBossism. The hashtag soon became a trend online.

Darshan, the son of well-known actor Thoogudeepa Srinivas, started his acting career on the small screen, while simutaneously working as a technician in Sandalwood for a year before he made his first silver screen appearance in *Mahabharatha,* which was released on August 11, 1997. He later stepped in as a hero with *Majestic,* and went on to become one of the tops stars in the industry. He continues to achieve commercial success, delivering box office hits time and again over the years. The actor, who has done 52 films so far, has managed to create a huge fan following in Karnataka and across the world. Popular as a mass hero, he has become equally known for his portrayal of historical and mythological characters.

Meanwhile, Darshan's fans are looking forward to the release of his upcoming 53rd film, *Roberrt*. Directed by Tharun Kishore Sudhir and produced by S Umapathy, the movie also features Asha Bhat as the female lead, along with Jagapathi Babu, Ravi Kishan, Vinod Prabhakar, Sonal Monteiro, Chikkanna and Shivaraj K R Pete in the ensemble cast. *Roberrt,* which has music composed by Arjun Janya and cinematography by Sudhakar S Raj, was originally supposed to have a summer 2020 release, but it got postponed due to the pandemic. The makers are yet to announce the new release date.

The actor's next is a historical film, *Raja Veera Madakari Nayaka.*

Darshan



SUDEEP PLAYS A BADASS NAMED VIKRANTH RONA

Director Anup Bhandari unveiled the first look of his protagonist Vikranth Rona from *Phantom,* which is played by Sudeep. The poster went viral on social media in minutes

Vikranth Rona is an enigma and Sudeep will pull off this unique character in *Phantom*
— **Anup Bhandari,** director

CE Features

The first look of Sudeep's Phantom was unveiled on social media on Monday by director Anup Bhandari. Along with the poster, the director also shared a small video clip in which he describes the name and the theme of the film.

Sudeep, with a gun and intimidating mannerism, looks classy in the poster. The specially-designed has him sitting between the jaws of a skull and yet he looks fearless. The gothic imagery has turned out to be an instant hit among fans.

Phantom has been creating a buzz in the Kannada film industry ever since it went on floors on July 16. Every new detail about the film from the producers has increased the excitement among the audience.

According to director Anup Bhandari, the protagonist Vikranth Rona is a total Badass and a distinctively tough character. He says, "Nobody can understand the mindset of Vikranth Rona or know why he is doing what he is doing. But he has reasons for all his actions. Vikranth Rona is an enigma and Sudeep will pull off this unique character in *Phantom.*" Ask the director whether Sudeep is playing an anti-hero, and he replies, "That's the whole suspense, and we want to keep it that way."

The first-look poster was designed by Kaani Studios while the entire set has been created by the art director Shivakumar. On the other hand, the film has music by Ajaneesh B Loknath and DOP William David is handling the camera.

The team which is temporarily camped in Anupama Studios, Hyderabad for almost a month now, has completed 35 percent of the shoot. *Phantom,* which was one of the first films in India to start shooting amid the pandemic situation, is made under Shalini Artss and produced by Manjunath Gowda. This will be Anup Bhandari's first collaboration with Sudeep. The makers, who are in still finalising the rest of the cast including the heroine, have another surprise in store which will be out in the next few days.

Lockdown and a love for cinema

Sudhir Srinivasan

The lockdown has been a curse, but it has also served to create new opportunities, and prodded people to explore new avenues. And that's how the India Cinema Chapter of the All Ladies League (ALL) came up with the idea of having some of its members—who had only consumed cinema all their lives—create a short film, and across 13 languages no less. Beena Unnikrishnan, the ALL India Cinema Chapter chairperson, was astonished to note the interest among sections of the one lakh-plus members of the organisation. "I was overwhelmed to see them show as much excitement. We finalised two scripts, conducted virtual auditions among our members, and had the films shot with the assistance of their family members," says Beena. The short films—*Home is Where the Heart* is and *Antraal*—have been published on her channel, but the bigger plan is to open an official YouTube channel on behalf of ALL's cinema wing, and continue to encourage this creative side of their members.

More than catering to an audience, this idea of having its members do a short film is to provide an avenue for their abundant creativity, according to Beena. "Our group has all varieties of women—lawyers, social workers, school heads..." she says, "To see them evince excitement about acting gave us all so much joy. It was satisfying to be able to put it all together." In both these shorts that are about 10 minutes long, the majority of the contributors are women. "However, we, as an organisation, believe in the strength of unity and the power of men too," clarifies Beena. "Quite a few men also joined in to help us achieve this vision." In the long run, Beena hopes that such initiatives will help provide more exposure to the latent talents of their members. "I hope that these endeavours will maybe result in them actually getting into cinema," she says.

To see them evince excitement about acting gave us all so much joy. It was satisfying to be able to put it all together
— **Beena Unnikrishnan,** chairperson, ALL

Subhi

Beena Unnikrishnan

Rupa

Nawazuddin Siddiqui

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Neha Sharma to star in *Jogira Sara Ra Ra*

CE Features

Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Neha Sharma will star in the upcoming romance, *Jogira Sara Ra Ra*! Written by Ghalib Asad Bhopali, the film will be directed by Kushal Nandy. Nawazuddin and Kushal had collaborated on the 2017 crime-drama, *Babumoshai Bandookbaaz.*

Speaking about his next, Kushal shares, "*Jogira Sara Ra Ra!* celebrates the joie de vivre of an oddball couple, their fancies and madness, set against the milieu of small town India or what I choose to call - the more glitzy and exuberant India."

The film will go on floors in February next year. It will be shot extensively in and around Lucknow, Benaras and Mumbai. It is produced by Naeem A. Siddiqui, under the banner of Touchwood Multimedia Creations.

Aamir Khan-Kareena Kapoor Khan-starrer *Laal Singh Chadha* pushed to Christmas 2021

Aamir Khan

CE Features

Aamir Khan-starrer *Laal Singh Chadha* has been pushed by a year. The film, which was initially set to release on Christmas this year, will now arrive on Christmas 2021.

Directed by Advait Chandan, *Laal Singh Chadha* is the official Hindi remake of *Forrest Gump* (1994). The upcoming adaptation also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Vijay Sethupathi. Recently, Aamir and team were spotted in Turkey shooting for the film. It is the second Bollywood production to go on floors in a foreign location since the lockdown. The first, *Bell Bottom*, starring Akshay Kumar, began filming in London recently.

Laal Singh Chadha is written by Atul Kulkarni. The comedy-drama is co-produced by Aamir Khan Productions and Viacom18 Motion Pictures. The film had gone floors in Chandigarh last year, followed by schedules in Kolkata, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Kerala and Jaisalmer. This is the third collaboration between Aamir and Kareena after *3 Idiots* (2009) and *Talaash* (2012).

Kareena Kapoor Khan